SHONENJUMP MANGA

vol. 23

NISEKOI

False Love

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

As the various love stories move toward resolution, the story nears its end. What is everyone thinking, and how are they feeling? Get ready for volume 23!

Naoshi Komi

NAOSHI KOMI was born in Kochi Prefecture, Japan, on March 28, 1986. His first serialized work in *Weekly Shonen Jump* was the series *Double Arts*. His best-selling shonen manga series *Nisekoi* is available in North America from VIZ Media.

NISEKOI:
False Love
VOLUME 23
SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

Story and Art by
NAOSHI KOMI

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NISEKOI: FALSE LOVE is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

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NISEKOI

False Love

vol. 23: One Day

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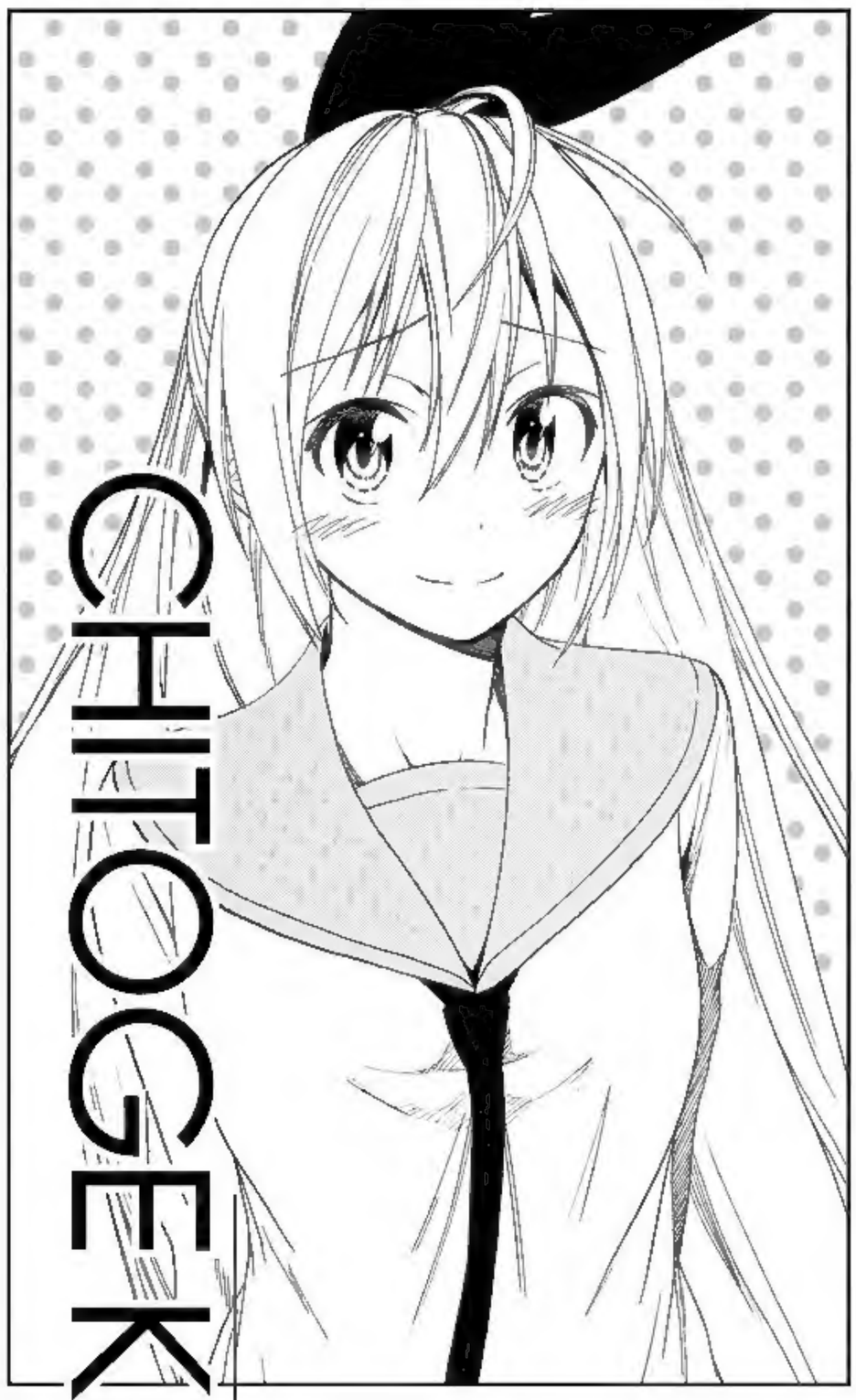
KOSAKI ONODERA

A girl Raku has a crush on. Beautiful and sweet, Kosaki has no shortage of admirers. She's a terrible cook but makes food that *looks* amazing.



CHITOGE KIRISAKI

A half-Japanese bombshell with stellar athletic abilities. Short-tempered and violent. Comes from a family of gangsters.

SHU MAIKO

Raku's best friend is outgoing and girl-crazy.

RAKU ICHIJO

A normal teen whose family happens to be yakuza. Cherishes a pendant given to him by a girl he met ten years ago.

RURI MIYAMOTO

Kosaki's best gal pal. Comes off as aloof, but is actually a devoted and highly intuitive friend.

YUI KANAKURA

A childhood friend of Raku's, Yui is the head of a Chinese mafia gang and the homeroom teacher of Raku's class at his school. She was staying at Raku's house and professed her love to him. She also has a key that's linked to some kind of promise.

MARIKA TACHIBANA

Daughter of the chief of police, Marika is Raku's fiancée, according to an agreement made by their fathers—an agreement Marika takes very seriously! Also has a key and remembers making a promise with Raku ten years ago. Due to a physical condition, she has to leave Japan for treatment in an American hospital.

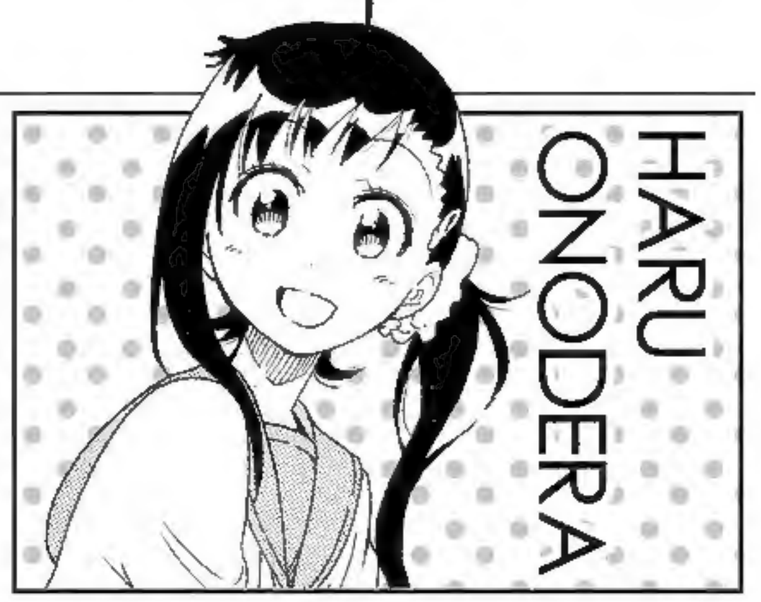
CHARACTERS & STORY

Ten years ago, Raku Ichijo made a promise with a girl he loved that they would get married when they met again...and he still treasures the pendant she gave him to seal their pledge.

Thanks to his family's circumstances, Raku has to pretend he's dating Chitoge Kirisaki, the daughter of a rival gangster. Despite their constant spats, Raku and Chitoge manage to fool everyone. Chitoge also has a token from her first love ten years ago—an old key. Meanwhile, Raku's crush, Kosaki, also has a key, as do Marika, the girl Raku's father has arranged for him to marry, and Yui, a childhood friend who's their homeroom teacher. Raku still doesn't know who his promise girl is when Marika confesses her love to him. He tells Marika he can't reciprocate her feelings, and he gets confused when she observes that he's drawn to both Kosaki and Chitoge. During Raku's next date with Chitoge, Chitoge's concern for Raku backfires...

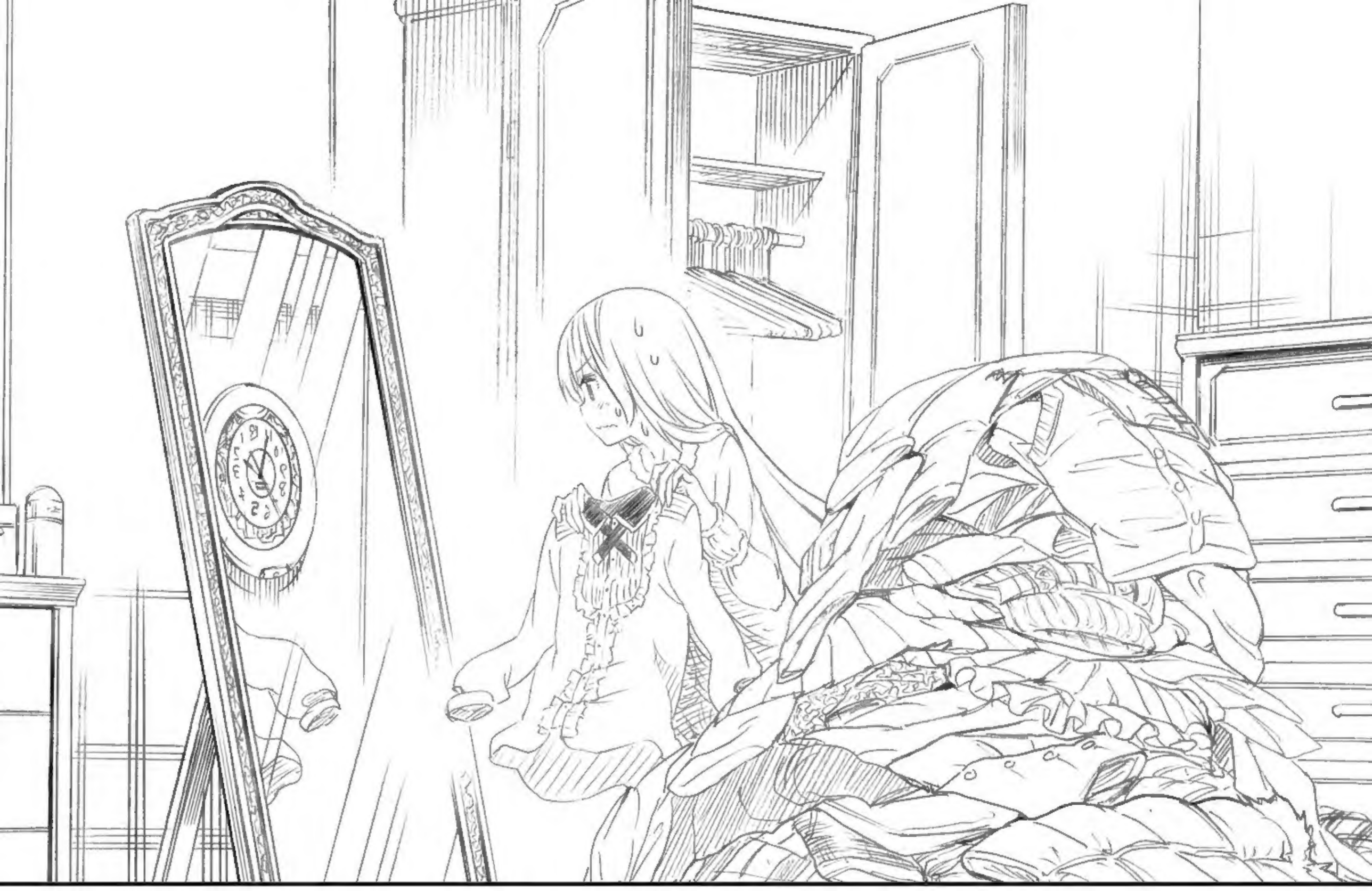
SEISHIRO TSUGUMI

Trained as an assassin in order to protect Chitoge, Tsugumi is often mistaken for a boy.



HARU ONODERA

Kosaki's adoring younger sister. Has a low opinion of Raku.



NISEKOI
False Love

vol. 23: One Day

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ME? WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

Welcome!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!

WHA...

Chapter 198: Coincidence

I JUST WANTED SOME RAMEN!

I DIDN'T FOLLOW YOU!

DON'T FOLLOW ME AROUND !!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

GLADLY!

FINE!

SIT FARTHER AWAY!

Shoo! Shoo!

WELL, DON'T SIT SO CLOSE!!

GOLDEN HOMETOWN MISO

HUH?

THERE'S A NEW MISO RAMEN?

WELL, WHATEVER. I'LL JUST EAT AND GET OUT OF HERE.

RIGHT AFTER THAT FIGHT TOO.

YEESH! WHAT A WEIRD COINCIDENCE!

SLRRP SLRRP

ANOTHER BOWL!!

ONE NEW MISO RAMEN!

EXCUSE ME! CANCEL THE USUAL...

I WASN'T !!

DON'T COPY ME!!

BESIDES, YOU ALWAYS ORDER TONKOTSU RAMEN! MAYBE YOU'RE THE ONE COPYING ME!!

WHAT? CAN'T I ORDER MISO RAMEN ?!

BE-CAUSE IT'S NEW!

Two miso ramen, coming right up!

WHY MISO TODAY ?!

YOU NEVER ORDER ANYTHING BUT SOY SAUCE RAMEN!

YOU WERE !!

WHAT?!

MAN, SHE EATS A LOT!!

Chashu
Cabbage
Chives
Garlic
Wakame
Egg
Nori
Menma

And two plates of pot stickers, stir-fried veggies, spicy eggplant, noodles... and...

I'll have a crab fried rice too.

WE CLASH OVER EVERY LITTLE THING!

GAH! WE REALLY JUST DON'T GET ALONG!!

HOW DID WE FINISH AT THE SAME TIME?!

You ordered so much!!

DON'T COPY ME!

CHECK PLEASE.

WE ARE NOT!!

YOU TWO REALLY DO GET ALONG!

I ATE AT MY USUAL PACE!

CUZ YOU'RE SLOW.

What's up with that?!

WELL, SO DID I! YOU EAT TOO FAST!

YOU TWO ARE SO CUTE TOGETH-ER!!

HA HA!

I DIDN'T FOLLOW YOU!

Come again!

RAMEN

IF YOU FOLLOW ME AGAIN, YOU'LL BE SORRY!

WAIT A SEC... THE NEW COOKBOOK I WANTED COMES OUT TODAY.

I'LL JUST POP BY THE BOOKSTORE ON THE WAY...

WELL, ANYWAY... TIME TO HEAD HOME.

MAN... WEIRD STUFF HAPPENS SOMETIMES.

What gives?!

YOU ARE FOLLOWING ME!!

I AM NOT! IT'S JUST A COINCI-DENCE!!

WHOOPS

How to Apologize After a Fight

BA-

BAM

BAM

I WAS HERE FIRST THIS TIME!!

I SWEAR I'M NOT!!

YOU MUST BE!!

YOU'RE DOING IT ON PUR-POSE!!

SHEESH... SHE'S THE ONE WHO NEEDS TO KNOCK IT OFF!!

WHOEVER HEARD OF SO MANY COINCI-DENCES?!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!!

FOLLOW ME AGAIN, AND NEXT TIME, I'LL CLOBBER YOU FOR REAL!!

SHEESH! KNOCK IT OFF, WOULDJA?!

THAT WAY, THERE'S NO WAY WE'LL...

I'LL JUST GO STRAIGHT HOME WITHOUT STOPPING AGAIN.

WELL, I CAN MAKE SURE WE DON'T MEET AGAIN.

BUT...

VOOSH

?!

WAAAAH!!!

WWW

AM

I'M TELLING YOU, IT'S A COINCIDENCE!!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT!

WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

YOU'RE TOTALLY FOLLOWING ME!!

WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE...

DUE TO AN ACCIDENT, ALL TRAIN LINES ARE DELAYED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE.

...

THAT WAY, WE WON'T MEET UP AGAIN.

I'LL KILL A LITTLE TIME AND THEN GO.

FINE.

YOU GO HOME FIRST.

NOBODY'S FOLLOWING YOU!!

I'LL GO THIS WAY, YOU GO THAT WAY!!

I'M GOING TO GO KILL SOME TIME, BUT DON'T YOU DARE FOLLOW ME!

LISTEN!!

PHEW. WHAT'S THE DEAL TODAY, ANYWAY?!

GUESS I'LL GO PASS THE TIME SOME-WHERE TOO...

OR ELSE...

AMUSEMENT

ANYWAY... I'M SURE IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.

IF WE CROSS PATHS AGAIN, IT HAS TO BE A CURSE...!

AMUSEMENT

EVENT PARTY!

EVENT PARTY!

GAME CENTER

KAPA KAPA

HEY...

HA HA!

Ah cha... Ah ha ha...

Bwa ha ha!!

HEE HEE... HA HA!

HEH... HEH HEH...!!

HA HA!

BWA HA HA HA!!

HA!

HA HA

HA

AH HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA

HA HA...!

HA HA

PHEW...

AT THIS POINT, ALL YOU CAN DO IS LAUGH ABOUT IT!!

TOTAL-LY!

WHAT'S GOING ON, ANYWAY?!

THIS IS RIDICU-LOUS!!

PHEEEW... OH MY GAWD...

I SHOULDN'T HAVE COMPLAINED. YOU WERE DOING YOUR BEST.

ME TOO.

I'M SORRY.

FOR ALL THE BAD STUFF...LIKE CLOBBERING YOU AND SHOWING YOU SUCH A ROTTEN TIME TODAY...

IT'S MY FAULT...

RAKU...

I'M SORRY.

SINCE WE'RE BOTH HERE AND ALL...

SAY...

SURE!

...CONTINUE OUR DATE A LITTLE?

YOU WANNA...

HIGH SCORE

THIS PLACE HAS REALLY CHANGED!

WOW!

GAME

YEAH, THAT WAS FUN.

BRINGS BACK MEMORIES.

WHEN-EVER WE RAN OUT OF STUFF TO DO ON A DATE...

WE CAME HERE A LOT IN OUR FIRST YEAR, REMEM-BER?

SO? WHATCHA WANNA DO?

PREMIUM

THE DRUM GAME!!

RIGHT ...

STILL, IT SEEMS PRETTY UNLIKELY.

What are the odds?!

NO WONDER WE END UP IN THE SAME PLACES.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE BEEN HANGING OUT WITH YOU EVER SINCE I GOT TO JAPAN.

WE FIGHT.

WE MAKE UP.

SO THAT'S HOW IT GOES.

HAAA

OHH

H

H

IN THE END, WE HAVE FUN.

WE NEVER GET TIRED OF EACH OTHER. LIKE MORONS.

Don't. Remember what happened last time?!

COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

WE NEVER GET TIRED OF EACH OTHER...

YEAH...

HUH?

AIR HOCKEY?

BAM!

LET'S DO THIS ONE NEXT!!

HEY...

OH!

WHAT?! YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING!!

YOU KNOW I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AT A PHYSICAL GAME AGAINST YOU...

WHOEVER LOSES PAYS FOR ALL OF THE GAMES TODAY!

Heh...

WHAT KIND OF MAN ARE YOU?

SO...GIVING UP BEFORE YOU EVEN START?

WUSS!

A GUY'S GOTTA DEFEND HIS MANHOOD, HONEY!!

HA HA HA!

BAM

NOT BAD, DARLING!!

OH HO HO!

Whoa! Those two are amazing!

BAM

BAM

BAM

YOU TOO!

TAKE THAT!!

HERE IT COMES!!

BAM!!

BAM!!

SMAK!

KTUNK

KTUNK

WHAAAAAAAAAA!?

WHAT WAS THAT?!

WHA...?!

THE GAME IS A TIE!!

BEEP BEEP! GAME OVER!!

OH MAN... MY STOMACH...

THAT WAS A TOTAL MIRACLE. IT'LL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

AH HA HA HA HA

AAAAH... MY STOMACH... MY STOMACH...

VOOSH... KA-TUNK!!

WHEE HEE HEE

HOLY COW, I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THAT!!

GYA HA HA HA HA!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!!

RAKU... DIDJA SEE THAT?!

VOOSH! VOOSH!

I HAFTA ADMIT... WE HAVE FUN TOGETHER.

...

Haaaaa...

HEY, RAKU...

CAN WE DO THAT NEXT?

...

I WONDER...

...HOW SHE FEELS ABOUT BEING WITH ME...?

New machine!!

Puri Love

NICE SHOT 2

Photo Stickers

PHOTO STICKERS?

...

Quick!! Put "Out of Order" signs on all the punching bag games!!
What?!
The famous goddess of destruction-
Uh-oh, boss! She's here!
murmur murmur murmur

Huge Eyes

Eye

New

Sweet Cute

YOU WANT TO DO...

...PHOTO STICKERS?

Gorgeous Girl

New

Chapter-199

I MEAN... DO WE REALLY HAVE TO?

GOOD POINT... BUT IT'S KINDA EMBAR-RASSING...

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DATING. WHAT IF SOMEONE ASKS TO SEE SOME?

WE'VE NEVER TAKEN ANY TOGETHER, RIGHT?

...

OH. OKAY.

Not sure I get it, but okay.

GIRLS LIKE PHOTO STICKERS!!

SO, WHAT DO WE DO?

I'M PRETTY MUCH A TOTAL NEWBIE.

LEGEND OF CUTIE
PREMIUM PHOTO STICKERS
START

YOU'VE NEVER TAKEN ANY?

°Heh heh...

THE STUFF YOU CAN DO THESE DAYS IS CRAZY.

HEH HEH... I'D LOVE TO SEE THAT.

LEGEND OF CUTIE ©
PREMIUM PHOTO STICKERS

WE PLAYED AROUND, MAKING OUR EYES BIG AND OUR SKIN SUPER WHITE 'N' STUFF.

IN JUNIOR HIGH, I DID IT ONCE WITH THE GUYS, JUST AS A JOKE.

DEEDLEE-DEE

?

?

POSE...?

PLEASE POSE ACCORDING TO THE INSTRUCTIONS!

LET'S SEE...

BUT LET'S JUST TAKE REGULAR ONES TODAY.

CHOOSE YOUR MODE
COUPLE
FRIENDS
BEEP

WHAAAAAT?!

MM...

FIRST ...

GUYS, HUG YOUR GIRLFRIEND FROM BEHIND. ♡

LIKE THIS

I'VE NEVER CHOSEN COUPLE MODE BEFORE!

I...I DON'T KNOW!!

W-WHAT?! IS THIS FOR REAL?

WE'RE DOING IT.

WHY?!

I WAS SURPRISED THERE FOR A SEC...

WELL, WE DON'T HAVE TO DO IT, RIGHT?

HERE GOES...

OKAY...

BESIDES, IF WE DON'T LOOK LIKE A COUPLE, WHAT'S THE POINT?

PHOTO STICKERS ARE VERY HIGH-TECH THESE DAYS!

FOR REAL?!

BECAUSE IF WE DON'T, IT WON'T TAKE THE PHOTO. (TOTAL LIE)

Good point...

RIGHT...

NEXT POSE!

DO I?!

HUH?!

YOU LOOK SO SERIOUS.

SMILE!

CHEESE!

KA

KLICK

KLICK!!

Like this?

MAKE A BIG HEART TOGETHER!

THAT'S A TALL ORDER...

MAKE THE WEIRDEST FACE YOU CAN!

HM...

A FUNNY FACE...

NOW, MAKE SUPER FUNNY FACES!

HOO HOO HOO...

HA HA...

YOUR TURN!

OH!

BLREF!

KA

POUT!

Hm...

Um...

I'VE SEEN YOU WITH RAMEN COMING OUT YOUR NOSE. IT'S TOO LATE TO ACT CUTE.

GRR ...

WHAT ?!

YOU MAKE WEIRDER FACES THAN THAT ALL THE TIME.

QUIT BEING SHY.

AW, C'MON. YOU CAN DO BETTER.

HUH?!

FINE. YOU ASKED FOR IT...

D-DELETE, DELETE!!

NOOOOOOO!

NAH! LET'S KEEP IT!!

IT'S A GREAT KEEP-SAKE!

OMG! IT JUST TOOK A PICTURE!!

FLAIL FLAIL FLAIL

BLRFF! GRIMACE

KLICK

YEAH. AREN'T YOU GLAD WE DID IT?

You write comments like an old man, though.

THESE TURNED OUT PRETTY GOOD!

HUH?

WELL, GOOD.

AT LEAST YOU FINALLY CHEERED UP.

STILL... THAT FACE CHITOGE MADE...

HOO HOO...

I WAS PRETTY BUMMED WHEN WE ENDED UP FIGHTING.

THAT WAS MY GOAL TODAY.

WELL ... YEAH.

YOU MEAN... YOU WERE TRYING TO...

WAIT...

BUT WHY?!

A CHEERY BEAN SPROUT—THAT'S WHAT I LIKE.

YOU'VE BEEN SO GLOOMY LATELY.

NOBODY LIKES A WILTED BEAN SPROUT.

HEY, I KNOW. IT'S OKAY.

WHEN I SAID *LIKE*...

W-WAIT!!

I MEANT... REAL BEAN SPROUTS... I DIDN'T MEAN...

OKAY THEN... I'LL GO GET US SOMETHING TO DRINK.

YOU WANT THE USUAL?

HUH? YEAH...

ANY-WAY...

I'M SORRY FOR NOT NOTICING.

THANK YOU.

SURE!

BUT I DIDN'T REALIZE SHE WAS WORRIED.

I GUESS I HAVE BEEN KINDA PREOCCUPIED LATELY.

...WAS ALL MEANT TO CHEER ME UP?

TODAY'S DATE...

IT'S DEFINITELY DIFFERENT FROM HOW I FEEL ABOUT ONODERA...

...BUT IT'S NOT THE SAME AS HOW I FEEL FOR SHU, EITHER...

OR IS SHE JUST A GOOD FRIEND?

DO I LIKE HER?

HOW DO I FEEL ABOUT CHITOGE, ANYWAY?

HERE. THIS IS YOURS.

OH WELL. TEA IS FINE.

I SHOULDA ASKED HER TO GET ME A SODA.

OOPS...

OH!

OH, DARLING! I GOT OUR DRINKS!

MATSUYA CIDER
マツヤサイダー
HUH?
...
HOW...
YOU'RE ON A SODA KICK, RIGHT?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?
NO WAY! I NEVER KNEW THAT.
EVERY NOW AND THEN, I HAVE A SODA PHASE.
HUH? YOU'RE DRINKING SODA? THAT'S UNUSUAL.

BA-DMP

IS YOUR SODA PHASE OVER?

WHAT?

WHAT'S THIS FEELING?

BA-DMP

?

HUH...

BA-DMP

HEY, RAKU!

IT'S GETTING LATE... DO YOU WANT TO DO ONE MORE THING?

...AROUND CHITOGE...

GAME

I'VE FELT THIS WAY...

...A NUMBER OF TIMES...

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

WHEN WE USED TO COME HERE, WE TRIED A BUNCH OF TIMES...

REMEMBER?

...BUT WE NEVER MANAGED TO CLEAR THE FINAL STAGE.

SATURDAY DANCING

WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?

WHEN DID I START FEELING LIKE THIS?

BUT!

I HAVE A FEELING WE CAN DO IT TODAY!

WANNA TRY?

MUSIC START!

TA-DAA!

LITTLE BY LITTLE...

BUT...

NOT AT THE VERY BEGINNING...

"GO AHEAD AND LAUGH!"

"HMPH! WHAT?!

"...THAT ROMANTIC STUFF..."

"I KINDA LIKE...

"MOVE..."

"M...

SLOWLY...

...I'VE COME TO FEEL IT MORE AND MORE OFTEN...

"RAKU..."

"YES...

...I WAS TAKING IT FOR GRANTED...

BEFORE I KNEW IT...

128 Comb

"I CAN'T STAND YOU."

"OF COURSE...

"ROMEO."

"IF YOU SCREW THIS UP, YOU'LL BE SORRY..."

"RAKUUUUUUU!!"

"BUT IT'S TRUE!"

"NO...

"THANK YOU...

"THANK YOU...!!"

"YIKES!"

PARA PAH PAH

CLEAR!!

CONGRATU-
LATIONS!!!

BA
BOM!!

...I'VE COME TO ENJOY IT..!

AND WITHOUT REALIZING IT...

RED

CORE: 72504

CLEAR

SCORE:7250

SMACK

OH...

I GET IT.

...THIS SENSE OF WANTING TO BE TOGETHER...

Yeah!! We cleared it!! Yaaay!!

...THE FUN WE HAVE...

THE GOOD FEELING I GET WHEN I'M AROUND HER...

RIGHT...

THIS FEELING...

IT'S A GOOD FEELING I GET ONLY WITH CHITOGE...

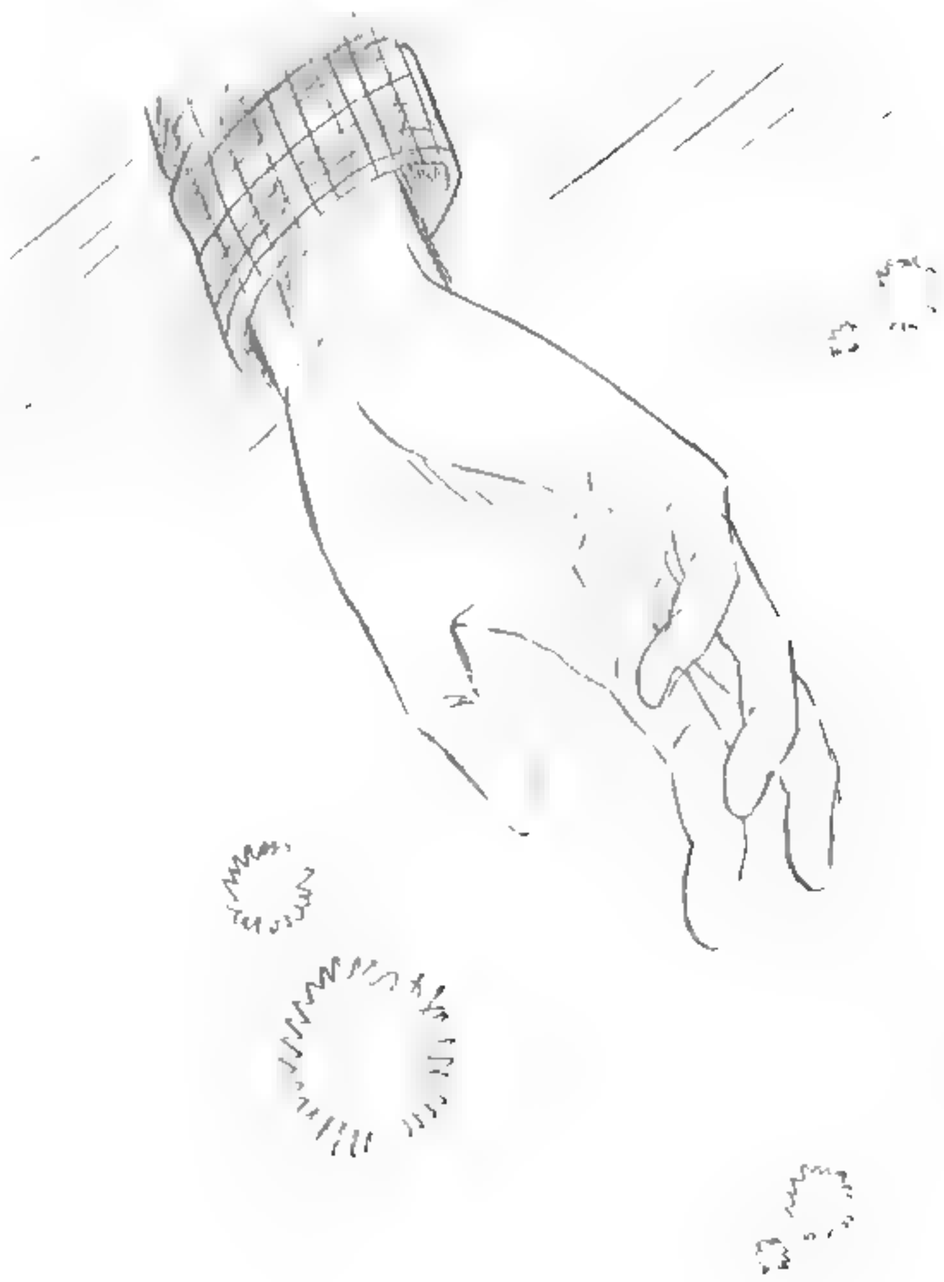
...FROM TACHIBANA OR FROM YUI...

IT'S DIFFERENT FROM ONODERA...

...IS LOVE.

THIS FEELING...

Chapter 199: Real Love



THIS FEELING...

I KNOW WHAT IT'S CALLED...

Chapter 200: Realization

I KNEW WE COULD DO IT TODAY!!

SEE? WASN'T I RIGHT?!

WE FINALLY BEAT IT!

WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE?!

HOW COME YOU'RE AVOIDING MY EYES?

N-NAH... YOU'RE IMAGINING IT!

HUH?! I-I-I AM?!

YOU'RE ALL RED!

SHAKA SHAKA

...I'D FALLEN IN LOVE...

I NEVER NOTICED...

Chapter 200: Realization

THE TRAINS SHOULD BE RUNNING AGAIN BY NOW.

SHEESH! QUIT CLOWNING AROUND AND LET'S GET GOING.

ROLL-A ROLLA ROLLA

I'M NOT AVOIDING YOUR EYES!

YOU TOTALLY ARE!!

...DID THIS HAPPEN?

WHEN ON EARTH...

THIS IS LOVE.

KTUNK

KTUNK

IT'S A BIT DIFFERENT FROM HOW I FEEL ABOUT ONODERA...

BUT IT'S DEFINITELY CLEAR TO ME NOW.

SMOOSH!

!

KTUNK!!!

THERE'S NO MISTAKING IT.

KTUNK

...

SORRY

...

...

IT'S CROWDED.

NO PROBLEM.

SHE SEEMS DIFFERENT NOW...

AND NOW I SEE HER AS A GIRL I LIKE!

ALL THIS TIME I THOUGHT SHE WAS MY CLOSE FRIEND...

SOMEHOW...

...TO PRETEND WE'RE DATING ANYMORE.

WE DON'T NEED ...

IT MUST HAVE ALREADY HAPPENED...

...BACK WHEN...

WHEN DID THIS HAPPEN?

SO...WHY DO I FEEL LIKE THIS...?

SUP-POSEDLY THIS IS WHAT I WANTED ALL ALONG.

SO WHEN SHE TOLD ME SHE LIKED SOMEONE...

THAT MUST HAVE BEEN WHY.

IT HURT TO THINK OF LOSING HER.

??

RAKU?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

MAYBE IT WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER NOT TO REALIZE HOW I FEEL!

RIGHT! SHE'S GOT A CRUSH ON SOMEONE!!

WE'RE GOING TO BE...

...SENIORS SOON.

I HAVE TO ADMIT I'LL MISS IT A BIT.

ONLY ONE MORE YEAR OF THIS RELATIONSHIP.

MAYBE SO.

...

WAIT, DO YOU REALLY MEAN THAT?

YOU HAVE A CRUSH ON SOMEONE, RIGHT?

WHEN THIS ENDS, YOU CAN HAVE A REAL RELATION-SHIP WITH HIM.

WHA...

WHY DO YOU ASK ALL OF A SUDDEN ?!

I told you, it's a secret!

OH, COME ON. YOU CAN TELL ME!

I'M REALLY INTER-ESTED!

THE GUY YOU LIKE.

WHAT'S HE LIKE?

AN IDIOT?!

IN A WORD... HE'S AN IDIOT.

WELL...

GEEZ. HE SOUNDS LIKE A TOTAL DRAG.

You sure about this guy?

HE'S INSENSITIVE AND BOSSY AND A TOTAL BUSYBODY...

HE'S ALWAYS LECTURING ME LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING...

WOW...

I CAN TELL YOU'RE REALLY INTO HIM.

HE'S A GOOD PERSON.

BUT...

YEAH.

I'M CRAZY ABOUT HIM.

HOW COME?!

WHAT?!

WELL... UM...I MEAN...

OH... HOW COME?

NAH...

I'M FINE WITH IT.

THEN...

...AREN'T YOU IN A HURRY FOR THIS FALSE RELATIONSHIP TO END?

WHAT?! WHAT'S HER DEAL?

SHE SAYS SHE LIKES THIS GUY, BUT SHE'S GOOD WITH HOW THINGS ARE NOW?

?

JUST TAKE MY WORD FOR IT!

I'M JUST FINE WITH IT, OKAY?

WHAT ABOUT YOU... DO YOU LIKE ANYONE?

WAIT A SEC...

HUH?

I DIDN'T MEAN ANYTHING BY IT!

I-IT WAS JUST A WHIM!

HONESTLY, I'M HAVING FUN.

THE WAY THINGS ARE.

IT'S PLATONIC, OF COURSE!!

I JUST HAPPENED TO BRING THIS. YOU CAN HAVE IT.

HE'S SOMEONE VERY CLOSE TO US.

I KNOW HIM WELL.

HOW CAN SHE SLEEP LIKE THAT?

WHY?

HE'S ALWAYS LECTURING ME LIKE HE KNOWS EVERYTHING...

HE'S INSENSITIVE AND BOSSY AND A TOTAL BUSYBODY...

DON'T TELL ME...

NAH, IT CAN'T BE...

COULD CHITOGE'S CRUSH-BE...

OR... COULD IT?

HE'S A GOOD PERSON.

BUT...

YOU LOOK LIKE A TOTAL WRECK!!

HEYA!!

BUT I DEFINITELY HAVE FEELINGS FOR CHITOGE.

HONESTLY, I NEVER UNDERSTOOD HOW ANYONE COULD FEEL THIS WAY, AND I DIDN'T WANT TO.

WELL, YEAH.

NOW I REALIZE I LIKE TWO PEOPLE...

ALL THIS TIME, I HAD A CRUSH ON ONODERA.

HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU A JERK?

I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD SINK SO LOW.

I'M SUCH A JERK.

YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH TWO TOTAL BABES!!

YIPPITY-DOO-DAH!

POP!

I THINK IT'S AWESOME!!

AM I REALLY HEARING THIS?

...

For real?

YOU GET TO FEEL TWICE AS MANY LOVE TINGLES THIS WAY!

SO WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?

YOUR FEELINGS ARE SINCERE, RIGHT?

I FEEL LIKE...

...LIKE I'M BEING DISLOYAL TO ONODERA...

SORRY, BUT I'M NOT THAT HAPPY-GO-LUCKY.

THE IMPORTANT THING...

FALLING IN LOVE IS A WONDERFUL THING.

WELL, YOU'RE NOT.

YOU FEEL LIKE A BAD PERSON?

...BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.

...IS THAT YOU MAKE A CLEAR CHOICE...

MARIKA SAID IT TOO, RIGHT?

"THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH THAT IN AND OF ITSELF."

ONO-DERA...

...OR KIRISAKI.

FALLING IN LOVE ISN'T A CRIME.

I THINK THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT.

SHE WANTED YOU TO FIGURE OUT WHO YOU REALLY WANTED TO BE WITH...

...SO THAT SHE COULD HAVE CLOSURE.

MARIKA WANTED YOU TO REALIZE YOUR TRUE FEELINGS...

...AND THEN MAKE YOUR CHOICE.

OF COURSE, I'M JUST GUESSING.

I NEED TO PICK ONE.

IF I HAVE FEELINGS FOR BOTH OF THEM...

...NOT MAKING A CLEAR CHOICE.

THE BAD THING IS...

YES...HE'S RIGHT...

ONE OF THE TWO...

AND THEN OUR LAST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL WILL FLY BY.

IT'S ALMOST APRIL.

THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT.

SPRING WILL COME AGAIN...

*NOTE: HARU MEANS "SPRING" IN JAPANESE.

SHP

KCHING

KTUNK

TUNK

KTUNK

Chapter 201: Spring Breeze

THE SEASON OF NEW BEGIN-NINGS.

SPRING...

IN APRIL, EVERYONE STARTS OUT FRESH.

NEW TURNING POINTS FOR EVERY-ONE.

WILL I FIND A NEW ME?

HA-RUUUU !!

THIS YEAR, I START MY SECOND YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL.

HARU!

FINALLY, WE'LL BE AT THE SAME SCHOOL TOGETHER AGAIN!!

EEEEEK!! HARU! GOOD MORNING!

RI! YOU'RE GOING TO BONYARI HIGH?

OH, COME ON...

BAM!!

I WAS SO LONELY WITHOUT YOU!!

I MISSED YOU SO MUCH LAST YEAR AFTER YOU GRADUATED!

GOOD MORNING, RI!

CUT THAT OUT!

We never kissed!

HARU, HOW I'VE MISSED YOUR SWEET KISSES...

MWA!

TUNNK

HEY, YOU TWO! QUIT FIGHTING!

AND I'M NOT BUDGING! ♡

NICE TO SEE YOU TOO!

NOW, WOULDJA GET OUT OF MY WAY?

GUESS IT'S NICE TO SEE YOU TOO.

OH... LONG TIME NO SEE, FU.

PUSH PUSH

...BRINGS US ALL TO NEW STAGES, LIKE IT OR NOT.

A NEW SEASON ...

HOW COME THEY CAN'T GET ALONG?!

YAP YAP

Future Plans Questionnaire

( )

( )

IT'S TIME FOR ALL OF YOU TO SETTLE ON CONCRETE FUTURE PLANS...

YOU'RE ALL SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS NOW.

...

Future Plans Questionnaire

YOUR FUTURE PATH?

WHAT?

...

I ASKED TEN OTHER FRIENDS BESIDES YOU, FU, AND THEY ALL SAID THE SAME THING.

U U U U

AREN'T YOU GOING INTO JAPANESE CONFECTIONS?

Taking over the family busi-ness?

Making Japanese desserts ...

BUT YOU LIKE IT, RIGHT?

I DO, BUT... ...

MY SISTER CAN'T, SO WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?

BUT I DON'T MAKE JAPANESE CONFECTIONS BECAUSE IT'S MY DREAM OR SOMETHING.

SIGH...

HM... ...

MAYBE I'M NOT CUT OUT TO MAKE JAPANESE DESSERTS...

WHEN I TRY TO COME UP WITH NEW RECIPES, NOTHING SEEMS TO TURN OUT...

I'VE BEEN DOWN IN THE DUMPS FOR A WHILE.

I JUST DON'T ENJOY ANYTHING.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS, FU?

MY PARENTS REALLY WANT ME TO GO TO COLLEGE.

BUT I'M NOT SURE.

OH...

I LIKE THE TREATS YOU MAKE, HARU.

THANKS, FU.

BUT I'M NOT HAPPY WITH THEM.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING DOWN, HARU?

FOR ABOUT A YEAR NOW, I GUESS...

IT'S BEEN GRADUAL, BUT IT'S BEEN GETTING WORSE...

I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS BEFORE...

THEN IT'S BECAUSE OF ICHIJO. ♡

IT IS NOT!!

The timing lines up!

ACTU-ALLY...

FU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.

OH, OF COURSE. I FORGOT.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?!

I DON'T EVEN LIKE HIM AT ALL!

WOULD YOU QUIT CONNECTING EVERYTHING TO HIM?

BUT I JUST CAN'T DO IT.

I'VE TRIED AGAIN AND AGAIN TO FORGET HIM...

I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO LET GO OF MY FEELINGS FOR ICHIJO.

MAYBE I'M BEING PUNISHED FOR NOT LETTING GO OF HOW I FEEL.

MAYBE THAT'S WHY I'M DOWN IN THE DUMPS.

AND SHE LIKES HIM TOO.

HE LIKES MY SISTER.

MY FUTURE PATH?

HUH?

...

HOW DID YOU DECIDE, SIS?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...

YES.

HUH?!

SWSH SWSH SWSH WSH

SIS? YOU'RE TOTALLY NOT MEETING MY EYES!!

MOM SAYS SHE'D LIKE TO HAVE ME STAY AND HELP WITH THE SHOP, BUT...

ARE YOU GOING TO COLLEGE? OR GETTING A JOB?

YOU'RE SO GOOD AT MAKING SWEETS...

BUT I WAS SURE YOU'D STAY ON AT THE SHOP, HARU!

I KNOW, I KNOW...

DON'T ATTACK ME!

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO?!

STAB

STAB

WHAAAT?! YOU STILL HAVEN'T DECIDED ON YOUR PATH, SIS?!

BUT YOU GRADUATE THIS YEAR!

NO WAY! I DON'T WANT TO ASK HIM!

HE KNOWS MORE THAN I DO ABOUT MAKING SWEETS...

HEY, WHY NOT ASK ICHIJO FOR ADVICE?

HE'S COMING TO HELP OUT AT THE SHOP TOMORROW.

WELL, THE TIMING'S PERFECT.

THANKS FOR HAVING ME.

HEYA.

大福

GOOD MORNING, ICHIJO!

HEY, KIDDO! THANKS FOR COMING!

Should I put my stuff over here?

Yes.

WHAT ABOUT MY FEELINGS, HUH?

RIGHT WHEN I'M THINKING ABOUT WANTING TO FORGET HIM, HE SHOWS UP.

SHEESH... IT NEVER FAILS.

AFTER REALIZING I HAVE FEELINGS FOR CHITOGE...

HONESTLY, I WASN'T SO SURE ABOUT COMING TODAY.

BUT...

I HAVE TO FIGURE OUT WHAT ONODERA MEANS TO ME.

ALL THE MORE REASON WHY I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THIS.

AND THAT HASN'T CHANGED, EVEN NOW THAT I REALIZE I LIKE CHITOGE..

WHOOPS!

MY FEELINGS FOR ONODERA ARE AS STRONG AS EVER.

GASP!

I'VE HAD A CRUSH ON HER SINCE JUNIOR HIGH.

ONODERA'S BEEN SPECIAL TO ME FOR SO LONG.

I'VE ALWAYS WATCHED HER...

Doo-do-doo...

BLUSH!

YEP. SHE'S ADORABLE.

I-I'm okay!!

Huh?! What do you mean?

Hey, Onodera! Are you okay?

SHE REALLY IS MY TYPE...GAH!

ARGH! I USED TO BE ABLE TO JUST ENJOY THE LOVE TINGLES, BUT NOW IT FEELS SO COMPLICATED!!

IT WOULD MAKE THIS EASIER...

IF THEY LIKE EACH OTHER SO MUCH. WHY DON'T THEY JUST DATE?

GEEZ... THEY'VE BEEN FLIRTING ALL DAY...

Oh... Thank you...

Let me help.

BA-DMP

AND THEN...

"MY SISTER LIKES YOU."

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST TELL HIM.

OKAY... HAVE A GOOD ONE!

I'M GOING TO START MY BREAK NOW.

KTUNK

JOLT

HARU...

AND EVEN IF SOMETHING WAS WRONG, I WOULDN'T TELL YOU!!

NOTH-ING'S WRONG.

I'M PER-FECTLY FINE.

WELL, DON'T SUGAR-COAT IT!

...

...

ICHIJO ...

IS SOMETHING WRONG?

YOU SEEM KINDA DOWN.

Break time!

?!

BA-DMP

I WANTED TO SEE YOU, HARU...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WHY NOT TAKE YOUR BREAK WITH SIS?

YOU'RE HERE FOR HER ANYWAY, RIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU WANT, ANYWAY?

WOULD YOU TRY THESE?

HERE.

*NOTE: NERIKIRI ARE JAPANESE TREATS MADE WITH RICE DOUGH AND BEAN PASTE.

...BUT I WANTED TO ASK SOMEONE WHO REALLY KNOWS HOW TO MAKE THEM...

ONODERA GAVE ME FEEDBACK ALREADY...

WELL, THEY'RE THE EPITOME OF JAPANESE SWEETS, RIGHT?

YEAH!

I'VE BEEN MAKING THEM A LOT LATELY.

THESE ARE FANCY!

NERIKIRI?

WILL YOU ADVISE ME?

YOU ALWAYS GIVE ME SUCH CLEAR FEEDBACK. IT'S REALLY USEFUL.

HERE WE GO AGAIN.

THANK YOU!

IF YOU WANT CRITICISM, I GUESS I CAN OBLIGE.

WELL, FINE.

SHEESH...

I HAVE TO LET GO...

Okay...

A bit over-baked...

And the decoration isn't really my style...

Hm... Your style...?!

I CAN'T KEEP FEELING LIKE THIS...

IT'S NO USE.

CHOMP

WHY DO I FEEL BETTER WHEN HE'S AROUND?

HE JUST KEEPS IMPROVING AT THESE...

WHOA... TASTY!

I CAN'T BE AROUND HIM.

THIS IS NO GOOD.

WELL...I'D BETTER GET BACK TO WORK...

SEE YOU...

HUH?

BUT IT'S STILL BREAK TIME!

M...MOM?! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

THERE THEY ARE!

NOW EVERY-ONE'S HERE!

JUST COME ON, WOULDJA?

TA-DAA!

BONYARI JAPANESE CONFECTION CONTEST

WHAT'S THIS?

BONYARI JAPANESE CONFECTION CONTEST?

I had no idea!

WOW... THERE'S SUCH A THING?

HAVE A LOOK AT THIS, YOU THREE!

FLITTA

DON'T BE SILLY.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

WHAT ABOUT IT?

THE THREE OF YOU!!

WE'RE ENTERING.

YOU ARE, THAT IS.

WHAT...?!

Japanese Confections
Onodera

I knew it...

Ritsu Hoshihara

Attended Hannari Junior High with Haru. Currently a first-year at Bonyari High. Former member of the archery club. Haru and Fu were in the archery club too. Has a big crush on Haru—apparently she was pierced with a love arrow watching Haru draw her bowstring. She and Fu fight like cats and dogs. The reason is unclear. Why? Because it is, okay?

Chapter 202: Important

Bonyari Community Hall

56TH BONYARI JAPANESE CONFECTION CONTEST

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

IT'S OKAY ...

SORRY ABOUT THIS, ICHIJO ...

MOM TOTALLY AMBUSHED US...

WOW...

SO THIS IS THE PLACE.

SURE IS BIG.

A JAPANESE CON-FECTION CONTEST ?!

WHAZZAT ?!

YOU DIDN'T EVEN ASK US!!

YOU'RE GOING TO BE CHAMPIONS!

I'VE ENTERED YOU THREE AS TEAM ONODERA!

JUST THINK OF THE PUBLICITY!

GOOD!

THEN THERE'S NO PROBLEM!

NO...

I DON'T MIND... BUT...

DO YOU MIND, ICHIJO?

BESIDES, WHY SHOULD ICHIJO HELP? THAT'S ASKING A LOT!

I'D RATHER NOT TEAM UP WITH HIM...

LET SIS AND ICHIJO ENTER TOGETHER.

STILL... I DON'T THINK I SHOULD DO IT.

WHOA... THAT'S HARSH, HARU!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, HARU!

THE CONTEST IS FOR MINORS.

ONLY YOU THREE ARE ELIGIBLE.

IF WE'RE GOING FOR PUBLICITY, SHOULDN'T DAD ENTER?

FLIP

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE FOR THE JOB!

OF COURSE!! YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE MOST EXPERIENCE!

Good potential, but still inexperienced.

Great palate and good at making things pretty, but terrible at cooking.

B... BUT...

YOU'RE THE TEAM LEADER!

HOW COULD THEY ENTER WITHOUT YOU?

L-LEADER?!

Talk about pressure!

GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE...

SHE SEEMS PRETTY CONFIDENT IN OUR ABILITY TO WIN...

MWA HA HA HA HA HA

SHOW THEM WHAT YOU'VE GOT!!

NOW, LISTEN! I WANT YOU TO GO FOR THE GOLD!

AS LONG AS WE'RE DOING THIS, WE'RE GOING TO MAKE A GREAT DESSERT!

!

FINE. I'VE JUST GOT TO FOCUS!

MAYBE THIS IS WHAT I NEED TO BEAT THE BLUES!

THE MORE I DECIDE I NEED TO GET DISTANCE...

SHEESH... WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

...THE MORE I'M FORCED TO BE WITH HIM.

WELL, THE FIRST RULE OF JAPANESE CONFEC-TIONS IS...

...WE SHOULD MAKE SOMETHING CONNECTED TO THE SEASON.

SO...

WHAT SHOULD WE MAKE?

ALL RIGHT, CONTES-TANTS ...

YOU MAY BEGIN!

GREAT! SOUNDS DELICIOUS!

Wow!

IT WILL HAVE SEVERAL LAYERS SO THAT THE CONSUMER CAN ENJOY VARIOUS COLORS, SCENTS AND FLAVORS.

SINCE IT'S SPRING, I WANT TO MAKE A HIGH-GRADE, FRESH MOCHI AND BEAN-PASTE CAKE WITH A CHERRY BLOSSOM MOTIF.

CHATTER

CHATTER

ICHIJO, YOU MAKE THE GYUHI RICE FLOUR DOUGH!

SIS, YOU START ON KUZU STARCH AND YOKAN JELLY DECORATIONS.

I'LL MAKE THE MAIN INGREDIENT, THE SWEET BEAN PASTE.

GOT IT!

Right!

LICK

SURE.

HEY, SIS, COULD YOU GIVE THIS A TASTE?

IT'S SWEETER THAN USUAL. AND ALSO...

YOU MIGHT HAVE OVER-COOKED IT A TAD TOO.

IT MIGHT OVERPOWER THE OTHER FLAVORS.

YOU'RE GOING TO COMBINE THIS WITH THE LOWER LEAF LAYER, RIGHT?

AUGH...

BLAH

BLAH

BLAH

HM...

I THINK THE CHERRY BLOSSOM FLAVOR IS A BIT TOO STRONG.

WILL YOU TASTE MINE TOO?

HEY, YOU TWO!

AND SHE'S AMAZINGLY ACCURATE.

SHE TELLS IT LIKE IT IS, ON EVERY COUNT.

TOUCHÉ!

SHE'S SO PERCEPTIVE... IT'S INCREDIBLE THAT SHE CAN'T COOK...

YES! AND I THINK IT CAME OUT PRETTY GOOD!

YOU'RE ALREADY DONE?

ICHI-JO!

FINE AS SILK...

SOFT AS A BABY'S CHEEK...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW GOOD THIS IS!!

WITH PERFECT ELASTICITY!!

I'VE NEVER MADE RICE DOUGH LIKE THIS...!

DELICIOUS!!!

And definitely impressive...

YEESH! THAT'S ANNOYING ...

GAH! I MAKE THIS EVERY DAY AT THE SHOP...AND THIS NEWBIE'S OUTDOING ME!!

AW... I JUST GOT LUCKY, I GUESS.

WOW!! IT'S REALLY GOOD, ICHIJO!!

Wow! Beautiful!

Here's what I've got...

I CAN'T LET THAT BOTHER ME.

NO.

IT'S FOR THE BEST...

I'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP.

IF THEY GET TOGETHER, IT'LL BE A RELIEF.

I'M GLAD THEY'RE HAVING FUN TOGETHER.

IT'S GOOD.

YEESH. MAYBE I SHOULD REALLY FIND ANOTHER CAREER...

UGH, THAT WOULD BE SO AWKWARD!

WE COULD END UP ALL RUNNING THE SWEET SHOP TOGETHER AFTER ALL...

BUT WAIT...IF THEY DATE...AND THEN IF THEY GET MARRIED...

FRET FRET FRET FRET

HUH?

HARU...

THE POT...!!

!!

HUH?

I SMELL IT TOO...

ICHIJO?

IS SOMETHING BURNING?

Turn off the burner!

YIKES!! CALM DOWN!!

EEEK!!

THE BEAN PASTE IS BURNING!! W... WATER!!

AND WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON TIME.

BUT NOW WHAT? WE DON'T HAVE ANY MORE INGREDIENTS FOR BEAN PASTE...

IT'S OKAY... NOBODY GOT HURT.

I'M SO SORRY.

WORMP

IT'S ALL MY FAULT ...

...AND THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN SUBSTITUTE TO MAKE THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS PINK...

WE CAN'T MAKE THE DESSERT I WAS PLANNING WITHOUT BEAN PASTE...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I MADE SUCH A STUPID MISTAKE!!

WHAT AM I DOING?! I'M SO STUPID!

YEAH ...

WHAT ABOUT IT?

HEY, ICHIJO ...

WEREN'T YOU USING UGUISU SOY FLOUR TO COLOR YOUR DOUGH?

THE TWO SHADES OF GREEN WILL BE PRETTY!

THEY'RE CHERRY BLOSSOM LEAVES, RIGHT?

AND WE CAN STILL USE THE DECORATIONS YOU MADE!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

UGUISU MOCHI ALSO SYMBOLIZES SPRING... I THINK YOU'RE ONTO SOMETHING!

OH! I GET IT!

COULDN'T WE MAKE UGUISU MOCHI DOUGH?

AND WE STILL HAVE MORE SWEET RICE FLOUR...

LET'S GET STARTED! THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME!

YEAH! IT'S ALL COMING TOGETHER!

WE COULD MODIFY THAT AND USE THE SALTED CHERRY BLOSSOMS AS ACCENTS...

DAD MADE CAKES ONCE BASED ON MUSTARD BLOSSOMS...

THEY DON'T NEED ME...

...AT ALL.

WHAT'S...

...THIS?

WHAT DO YOU THINK? SOMETHING LIKE THIS?

SHOW ME?

SURE!

ONODERA, PASS ME A BOWL?

THEY DON'T NEED ME.

I'M WONDERING HOW MUCH SUGAR TO USE...

HEY, HARU!

HARU...?

...

...AM I DOING?

WHAT...

I DID RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTS.

I DID IT EVERY DAY.

BUT I'M A TOTAL WASHOUT.

I ACTUALLY...

...AT MAKING JAPANESE SWEETS.

I THOUGHT I WAS GOOD...

...TOOK PRIDE IN IT.

I WAS NOTHING BUT DEAD-WEIGHT!

A FAILURE!

SOME LEADER!!

THERE YOU ARE!!

MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE UP...

...ON JAPANESE CONFECTIONS ONCE AND FOR ALL.

WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?

I'D RATHER NOT GET IN THE WAY ANYMORE.

THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME LEFT.

LEAVE ME ALONE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

YOU'RE UPSET?

IF YOU DO THE COOKING AND SHE DOES THE PLATING, YOUR CAKES WILL BE PERFECT.

IT'S LIKE SIS SAID.

THE TWO OF YOU ARE FINE WITHOUT ME.

SO...

...GET SO UPSET.

I WOULDN'T ...

YOU CAN MAKE WAY BETTER JAPANESE DESSERTS THAN ME.

WHAT GOOD AM I?

I BLEW IT AND ALMOST RUINED EVERYTHING.

OF COURSE I AM.

THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!

WELL, I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO UNDER-STAND...

ON TOP OF BEING A FAILURE, I'M ALSO AN EMOTIONAL WRECK!

OH, GEE! SORRY FOR FEELING BAD!

I DON'T THINK I COULD FEEL AS STRONGLY AS YOU DO ABOUT THIS.

I MEANT...

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SO UPSET...

...GOES TO SHOW HOW IMPORTANT JAPANESE DESSERTS ARE TO YOU.

ONODERA TOLD ME...

...THAT YOU'VE BEEN AGO-NIZING OVER YOUR FUTURE PATH.

SURE, I HAVE A FEW BASIC TRICKS WHEN IT COMES TO COOKING.

BUT...

...NOTHING COMPARED WITH SOMEONE OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE.

I'M JUST A BEGINNER.

THE DESSERTS YOU MAKE...

...AND YOUR LOVE OF THE CRAFT.

...CONVEY YOUR THOUGHT-FULNESS FOR THE PEOPLE WHO WILL EAT THEM...

I COULD NEVER COOK LIKE THAT..

BUT BEYOND THAT...

...TO MAKE TRULY DELICIOUS THINGS...

...I THINK IT TAKES SOMEONE WHO REALLY LOVES JAPANESE DESSERTS.

SOME-ONE LIKE YOU, HARU.

WE NEED OUR LEADER!

SO LISTEN!

CHEER UP AND COME COOK WITH US!

HONESTLY...

THIS GUY...

BESIDES, WE'RE STUCK, AND WE DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

ONODERA DOESN'T KNOW EITHER...

YOU KNOW... YOUR PRINCE CHARMING!

AND ANOTHER THING...

HE SAID HE LIKES YOUR DESSERTS!

LOOK ...

YOU KNOW THE CAKES YOU ALWAYS MAKE AT THE SHOP?

WELL, HE LOVES THEM!

HE COMES FROM WAY FAR AWAY TO BUY THEM!

WONDER WHERE HE IS NOW...

ANYWAY, LOTS OF PEOPLE LOVE YOUR DESSERTS, HARU!

SO BUCK UP...

ICHIJO...

YEAH?

...THAT YOU WERE MY PRINCE CHARMING.

I KNOW ...

HUH?

...

...THAT YOU WERE MY PRINCE CHARMING.

I KNOW...

Chapter 203: Beginning

OH...

HUH?

I'VE KNOWN FOR QUITE SOME TIME...

SHP

?!

SIS CONFIRMED IT.

HOW COULD I BE YOUR PRINCE...

I-I MEAN...

WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HARU?

SHE TOLD ME...

...THAT YOU'VE HAD THIS PENDANT FOR A LONG TIME.

JING

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO CAME TO MY RESCUE.

AND THAT OTHER TIME TOO...

THAT TIME...

YOU'RE WAY TOO THOUGHTFUL TOWARD OTHER PEOPLE.

HON-ESTLY...

...BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HURT MY FEELINGS.

I ALSO KNOW THAT YOU KEPT IT FROM ME...

I'M SORRY, ICHIJO...

...FOR NOT LETTING ON THAT I KNEW.

REALLY, I SHOULD HAVE THANKED YOU LONG AGO...

...BUT INSTEAD I WAS ALWAYS SO THORNY WITH YOU...

I KNOW YOU'RE REALLY A KINDHEARTED PERSON.

I WON'T JUDGE YOU ANY-MORE ...

...BASED ON STUPID RUMORS AND STUFF.

YOU WERE THE PRINCE CHARMING I WAS LOOKING FOR ALL THAT TIME.

ICHIJO...

SO...

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE A CRUSH ON YOU, THOUGH.

WELL, ANYWAY...

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D MET SOMEONE REALLY SPECIAL...

HONESTLY, I WAS DISAPPOINTED... WHEN I FOUND OUT YOU WERE MY PRINCE CHARMING.

A GIRL'S HEART ISN'T THAT STRAIGHT-FORWARD!

IT WAS ALL A MATTER OF WEIRD COINCI-DENCES AND MISUNDER-STANDINGS.

LOOK, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.

HUH?

WHY'RE YOU LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?

WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?

I'M GLAD TO HAVE THIS CHANCE TO TELL YOU.

BUT...

I REALLY AM GRATEFUL.

OH? WELL, YOUR FACE IS BRIGHT RED!

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING !!

WHA...

I just happened to find out.

DON'T WORRY, I WON'T TELL ANYONE ELSE YOUR SECRET.

OH, AND I DIDN'T HEAR THAT PART FROM SIS.

WHAT ?!

OH, AND I KNOW YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH KIRISAKI IS FAKE.

...PLEASE BE GOOD TO MY SISTER.

!

SO, ICHIJO...

I'M ACTUALLY DOING WHAT I CAN TO HELP.

REMEMBER YOUR DATE AT THE AQUARIUM... AND AT CHRISTMAS?

I WON'T GET MAD ANYMORE WHEN YOU APPROACH HER.

ANYWAY, WE SHOULD GET BACK TO THE CONTEST.

IF YOU DON'T TELL HER HOW YOU FEEL, SHE'LL NEVER KNOW.

YOU NEED TO GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER.

"BE GOOD TO MY SISTER"...?

WOW...

THIS IS GOOD.

OKAY...

HARU !!

OH!

NOTHING SEEMS TO BE WORKING...

HELP ME!!

THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE BACK!

OH! THAT MAKES SENSE!

I'LL GET EVERY-THING READY!

THE CORRECT TIME TO ADD THE SOY FLOUR IS...

SINCE UGUISU RICE CAKES ARE OUR BASE, WE NEED TO START WITH THIS 'N' THAT...

FIRST, LET'S ESTABLISH WHAT WE'RE GOING FOR.

COME ON, ICHIJO... DON'T YOU KNOW BETTER THAN THIS?

YOU'RE DOING EVERYTHING OUT OF ORDER.

I have no excuse.

OUCH ...

NOW!

TIME IS SHORT! WE GOTTA WORK AT WARP SPEED!

ROGER THAT!

FLATTERY WILL GET YOU NOWHERE.

NOBODY HAS YOUR BREADTH OF KNOWLEDGE.

WOW, IT'S GREAT TO HAVE YOU HERE, HARU!

LOOK! MY DAUGHTERS DID IT!

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?

BONYARI

CONFECTION CONTEST

Gold Medalists

NANAKO... YOU TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT YESTERDAY ALREADY.

SO...YOU FIGURED OUT YOUR FUTURE PATH, HARU?

GOOD FOR YOU.

YES.

FOR NOW ANYWAY.

I THINK YOU MADE THE RIGHT CHOICE.

IT SUITS YOU, HARU.

I FEEL LIKE SIS AND ICHIJO REALLY GAVE ME A PUSH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

I HAVE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD.

WELL...

SO? WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TELL ME?

PLUNK

I'M SORRY, FU...

THERE'S SOMETHING I WASN'T ABLE TO TELL YOU ALL THIS TIME...

YES...?

?

...THIS WHOLE TIME...

I WAS IN LOVE...

I'M SORRY I KEPT IT A SECRET.

MY FEELINGS WERE JUST...SO STRONG...

I LIKED HIM...

I REALLY DID...

I KNOW.

YOU'VE BEEN SO STRONG.

YOU'VE BEEN REALLY STRONG, HARU.

THE SEASON OF NEW BEGINNINGS.

SPRING...

...SOMETHING HAS TO END.

AND FOR SOMETHING NEW TO BEGIN...

ICHIJOOO!!

HEY THERE, HARU!

GOOD MOR...

WELL, THIS IS UN-USUAL.

HARU'S NEVER ASKED ME FOR FEEDBACK BEFORE.

From
Sub

WHAT?

YOU LOOK DUMB-STRUCK.

I DECIDED ON MY FUTURE PATH.

AFTER I GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL, I'M GOING TO APPRENTICE AT A JAPANESE SWEET SHOP.

APPRENTICE ?!

WHAT, THIS?

I NEEDED A CHANGE, SO I CHOPPED IT ALL OFF.

YOUR HAIR...

OH... WELL...

...BUT I FIGURE SHORT HAIR IS BEST IF I'M GOING TO BE WORKING WITH FOOD.

I KNOW THAT'S STILL A WAYS DOWN THE ROAD...

HOW DO I LOOK?

HE SAYS IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO TRAIN AWAY FROM HOME IF I WANT TO GET REALLY GOOD.

YEAH.

I TALKED TO MY DAD, AND HE KNOWS A GOOD CONFECTIONER I CAN APPRENTICE WITH.

I PROMISE.

You're still worrying about that?

PROMISE NOT TO GET MAD IF I COMPLI-MENT YOU?

THANK YOU.

...

I THINK IT MAKES YOU LOOK MORE GROWN-UP!

YOU HAVE A GREAT FACE, SO IT ALL WORKS.

YOU LOOK GREAT!!

MMMM!!

!

I'M PRETTY PLEASED WITH THEM.

ANYWAY, I CREATED SOME NEW RECIPES... LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

WOW! THEY LOOK DELICIOUS!

TA——DAA!

THEY'RE THE BEST I'VE EVER TASTED... HANDS DOWN!!

WOW, THESE ARE INCREDIBLE! REALLY FRAGRANT AND DELICIOUS!!

ARE THEY GOOD?

AMAZING!!

IT IS NOT!

THEN IT'S BECAUSE OF ICHIJO. ♡

DOWN IN THE DUMPS?

In particular, the blah blah part is super blah blah...like, sha-bang! And then, ka-pow! Plus the harmony of the blah blah with the blah blah blah...

I'M WORKING AT THE SHOP TODAY.

OKAY, I'D BETTER BE GOING.

OH!

LEAVING ALREADY?

?

CHOMP CHOMP

YUM YUM

...FU WAS RIGHT.

I GUESS ...

I'M GLAD YOU LIKE THEM.

I'M GOING TO BE A REALLY GOOD DESSERT MAKER!

HEY, ICHIJO!

I...

SO, WHEN I DO...

I'M GOING TO MAKE SUCH AMAZING DESSERTS YOU'LL WEEP WITH JEALOUSY!

FWOOSH!!

OH...

KA POW

COOL...

THE TEDDY BEAR PANTIES ARE VERY STYL-

Thank
you for
your kind
words...

Chapter 204: Chance

GOOD MORNING!

OH!

MASTER CLAUDE!

YES. I'VE BEEN TRAVELING QUITE A BIT FOR VARIOUS ASSIGNMENTS.

HOW IS THE YOUNG MISTRESS?

MASTER CLAUDE...

IT SEEMS LIKE AGES SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU.

IS THAT SO. WELL...AS LONG AS SHE'S HAPPY...

NGH ...

LOOKING FORWARD TO HER DATE TOMORROW. I EVEN HEARD HER SINGING TO HERSELF.

OH, SHE'S QUITE WELL.

WHAT ABOUT SEISHIRO?

DID YOU FILL OUT A FUTURE THINGY TOO?

Future Plans Questionnaire

1st Choice:	Bonyari University		
2nd Choice:	Sahari University		
3rd Choice:	Otori Girls' College		

HEY, BLACK TIGER...

OUR HOMEROOM TEACHER WANTS THEM TURNED IN RIGHT AWAY.

DID I FILL IT OUT OKAY?

FUTURE PLANS QUESTION-NAIRE?

AH, RIGHT. I REMEMBER FILLING THAT OUT LAST YEAR.

I KNOW THAT...

I JUST THOUGHT...

WHERE THE YOUNG MISTRESS GOES, WE FOLLOW.

SURE. YOU CAN WRITE WHATEVER.

IT DOESN'T APPLY TO US ANYWAY.

Future Plans Questionnaire

SCHOOL'S BORING... WHO NEEDS IT, ANYWAY?!

I JUST FIGURED... I HAD TO WRITE SOMETHING, RIGHT?

N-N-NO WAY!! DON'T BE SILLY!

OKAY... BUT WHY ARE YOU FREAKING OUT NOW?

YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE, PAULA?

HM?

BLRF!!

...IF YOU'RE PLANNING TO MARRY A FUTURE YAKUZA BOSS...

SEEMS RELEVANT TO ME...

BLRFG

WHAT ABOUT YOU? WHAT'D YOU WRITE?

ME?

LIKE I SAID... OUR PLANS ARE IRRELE-VANT...

I'M NOT TRYING TO GET ANYWHERE WITH ANYONE!

I DON'T EVEN LIKE ANYONE...!!

NO WONDER YOU AREN'T GETTING ANYWHERE WITH THE GUY YOU LIKE...

SHEESH. YOU'RE SO WISHY-WASHY!

PAULA, HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU...

BRRRNG

MASTER CLAUDE!

HELLO ?

KLIK

SEISHIRO SPEAKING ...

OH!

GOOD MORNING...

...

LOVELY DAY FOR A DATE!

GOOD MORNING, DARLING!

Let's decide together.

Where should we go today?

LISTEN UP, SEISHIRO!

WE'LL BLOW THAT LITTLE RAT'S COVER, BY HOOK OR BY CROOK!!

SIGH...

CLAUDE SURE IS PERSISTENT... ALMOST TO A FAULT...

I REALLY DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY POINT IN CONTINUING TO TAIL THESE TWO...

SHEESH ...

But I can't convince Claude of that...

AND WHEN WE DO, IT'S GONNA BE A FESTIVAL OF BLOOD...

HE'S A SLY ONE, BUT WE'LL FIND THE CRACKS IN HIS ARMOR!

...AND THEIR TENDERNESS TOWARD ONE ANOTHER...

I'VE WITNESSED THEIR RELATIONSHIP...

...UP CLOSER THAN ANYONE...

THEY WON'T RECOGNIZE ME LIKE THIS.

YES.

THEY LOOK HAPPY TOGETHER.

BA-DMP

MY JOB TODAY IS JUST TO WATCH OVER THEM..!!!

SHOOP

KA-VOOSH

GOTTA FOCUS ON MY DUTIES!!

WHY'S MY HEART ALL AFLUTTER?!

HUH?!

WHSH

WHSH

TO STAND BACK AND WATCH...

YES...

SOME-THING'S UP...

WHAT'S THIS?

HM?

TUNE

WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...

A YOUNG COUPLE SNEAKING OFF TOGETHER...!!

GASP!

THEY SEEM TO BE TRYING TO SNEAK OFF...

STILL...I DON'T WANT TO VIOLATE THE MISTRESS'S PRIVACY...

BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO BE MONITORING THEM!

BUT...

NGH

I'M SURE THERE ARE TIMES WHEN A PAIR OF LOVEBIRDS NEEDS SOME PRIVACY...

MAYBE I SHOULDN'T BE FOLLOWING THEM...

SHOOP

I'M NOT IN THE LEAST BIT MOTIVATED BY PRIVATE INTEREST...

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME OF DUTY.

FORGIVE ME, MISTRESS ...

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

SNEAK

SNEAK

WELL, THAT WAS A SURPRISE!

WHO WOULDA THOUGHT WE'D RUN INTO THE GUYS FROM MY FAMILY!

YEAH. THEY SEEM TO BE KEEPING THEIR PROMISE.

I'M IMPRESSED.

AT LEAST THEY WEREN'T FIGHTING.

AND FROM MY FAMILY TOO!

GUESS THEY DIDN'T WANT THEIR DATE TO BE INTERRUPTED.

I SEE... THEY SAW A FEW BEEHIVE MEMBERS...

The yakuza too...

YEAH...IT WOULD'VE BEEN A HASSLE TO DEAL WITH THEM.

DO YOU THINK WE DID THE RIGHT THING... RUNNING AWAY?

!

IT'S AMAZING NOBODY'S FOUND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT US.

STILL...

I SHOULD LET THEM BE.

I'LL JUST TELL CLAUDE THERE'S NOTHING TO REPORT...

I DUNNO 'BOUT THAT...

MAYBE I SHOULD BE AN ACTRESS!!

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT...?

WHAT...?

HONESTLY, WHEN THEY FIRST TOLD US TO DO THIS, I FIGURED IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

WHAT WITH THE GUYS ALL OVER TOWN...NOT TO MENTION EVERYONE AT SCHOOL...

YEAH.

HUH...?

ANYWAY, WE PROMISED OUR DADS ONE MORE YEAR, SO DON'T SCREW IT UP, OKAY?

YEAH, BUT THAT'S ALL ABOUT AD-LIBBING.

ONE MORE YEAR? PROMISED WHAT...?!!

COME ON! WHEN WE DID THAT SHOW AT THE CULTURE FESTIVAL, I FIGURED WE'D BE FINE BECAUSE WE ACT THE PART OF A COUPLE ALL THE TIME!

ACT THE PART OF A COUPLE ?!

W...

WAIT ...!

HOW COME YOU'RE SO QUIET TODAY?

WELL... SHOULD WE BE GETTING BACK?

KOFF &

YOU MUST BE IMAGIN-ING THINGS.

THEY DON'T MEAN...

DON'T TELL ME...

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

NO, YOU!

I'M ON IT! DON'T YOU SCREW IT UP!

SHOOP

WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT...?

A ghost !!

AIEEEE !!

SO, YOU'RE SAYING...

...

I'M AFRAID SO.

SO, YOU WERE BOTH FOLLOWING THE BOSS'S ORDERS AND PRETENDING TO BE A COUPLE?

YOU HAD ME COMPLETELY FOOLED...

I CAN'T BLAME YOU, UNDER THE CIRCUM-STANCES.

I GET IT.

YOU'RE NOT ANGRY?

I thought you'd kill me.

I respect that.

YOU'VE SACRIFICED A LOT TO PROTECT THE GROUP AND THIS TOWN...

WELL, I UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION.

I'M SORRY WE TRICKED YOU, TSUGUMI.

IT'S OKAY. IT WASN'T PERSONAL.

YEAH...YOU'VE SHOWN US YOU'RE MORE LOYAL TO CHITOGE THAN TO OL' FOUR-EYES...

I'M SORRY WE DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER.

I'M REALLY SORRY. WE WANTED TO TELL YOU...

OH...

THE BIGGER ISSUE IS...

I'M SHOCKED AT MYSELF FOR NOT FIGURING IT OUT...

YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR EACH OTHER?

THERE'S REALLY NOTHING BETWEEN YOU?

I REALLY AND TRULY BELIEVED YOU WERE A COUPLE...

I'M STILL HAVING TROUBLE ACCEPTING IT.

OOF!

I MEAN, COME ON!!

OF...OF COURSE! NO FEELINGS AT ALL!

!!

RIGHT?

IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE CIRCUM-STANCES... WE'D NEVER...

OF... OF COURSE WE DON'T! RIGHT?!

OOF...

I GUESS I'M A REALLY POOR JUDGE OF CHARACTER...

OH... OKAY...

OH... OKAY... SEE YOU, TSUGUMI.

I'LL BE GOING NOW.

DON'T WORRY. I WON'T REVEAL YOUR SECRET TO CLAUDE.

ALL RIGHT...

SEE YOU...

WOW.

I HAD NO IDEA...

SO MASTER CLAUDE WAS RIGHT...

I WAS SO BLIND...

SO IT MUST BE TRUE...

SHE SAYS SO HERSELF...

IT WAS ALL AN ACT...THE HAPPINESS THAT LIT UP HER FACE WAS JUST AN ACT...

IT'S STILL HARD TO BELIEVE.

I'VE GOT TO THINK THIS THROUGH CALMLY.

WHSH WHSH

GAH...I'M STILL ALL MIXED UP.

THEY'VE DEFINITELY REDUCED CLASHES BETWEEN THE FAMILIES... AND IT'S FOR THE MISTRESS'S OWN GOOD...

IF ANYTHING, I CAN SUPPORT THEM BETTER NOW.

NOTHING, REALLY.

IF THEY AREN'T A REAL COUPLE, WHAT DOES THAT CHANGE?

OTHER THAN THAT...

WHAT ELSE?

...THEN THAT MEANS...HE COULD DATE SOMEONE ELSE...?

IF RAKU ICHIJO ISN'T DATING THE MISTRESS...

AAAAUGH!!! WHAT AM I THINKING...!!

WHO COULD THAT SOME-ONE ELSE BE?!

EVEN IF JUST FOR A MOMENT ...

I-I-I WASN'T GONNA GO THERE... I SWEAR!!

...

NOM NOM

SO, THEY AREN'T ACTUALLY DATING!

INTER-ESTING!

JOLT

?!

You okay?

YOU'VE BEEN MUTTERING TO YOURSELF ALL THIS TIME.

FROM YOU, JUST NOW.

P-PAULA ...

HOW DID YOU HEAR...?

NO!!

THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE! ♡

IN OTHER WORDS ...

I GET THE BASIC IDEA.

AH... I SEE!

After all, I...

IN THEORY, SURE, BUT REALITY IS WAY MORE COMPLICATED...

I'm stoked for you!

WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

NOW THERE'S NO REASON FOR YOU NOT TO GO AFTER HIM!

WELL, ALL THIS TIME YOU WERE YIELDING TO THE MISTRESS.

...

THAT...

SHEESH. IF YOU KEEP DENYING YOURSELF, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO REGRET IT.

?!

AGREED ?

ANYWAY, FOR STARTERS, YOU SHOULD WEAR THIS TO SCHOOL TOMORROW.

Gah! Wait! What're you doing?!
Hurry up and get changed!
POUNCE

Chapter 205: That's It

The day before

WHOOA!!

WHISPER

WHISPER WHISPER

DIIIING DOOOONG

OH, YOU KNOW...MY REGULAR UNIFORM IS IN THE LAUNDRY, SO...

WHY'RE YOU DRESSED LIKE THAT, TSUGUMI?

Last time you wore Chitoge's clothes, didn't you?

I BOUGHT ONE WHEN I MATRICULATED HERE...

I JUST NEVER SAW THE NEED TO WEAR IT.

Uh... It's required... but...

I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A GIRLS' UNIFORM.

THE LAST TIME YOU WORE A SKIRT, WE WERE FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS...

WOW! WHAT A SURPRISE!

N-NAH! IT'S JUST FOR TODAY!

LIKE I SAID...!

YOU SHOULD WEAR IT ALL THE TIME!

WELL, YOU LOOK GREAT!

I KNEW IT... I SHOULD NEVER HAVE WORN THIS UNIFORM...

NGH...

WHA...?! WHY WOULD I WEAR THAT?!

A GUY CAN'T HELP LOOKING WHEN SOMETHING UNUSUAL HAPPENS!

HUH?!

WHAT?! QUIT STARING AT ME!!

HOW COME YOU'RE ONLY MAD AT ME?!

BUT...

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF...

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TURN ON THE CHARM!!

WE FOUND OUT THAT THE MISTRESS ISN'T DATING RAKU ICHIJO!

WHAT A STUPID QUESTION!

I'M NOT WEARING THAT!!

YOU CALL THIS UNDERWEAR?! IT'S NOTHING BUT STRING!

THE KEY IS TO CASUALLY LET HIM CATCH A GLIMPSE OF IT...

HERE, YOU WANT TO BORROW SOME LINGERIE BIG SIS JESSICA GAVE ME?

IF YOU WANT TO GET YOUR MAN, YOU'VE GOT TO WAGE AN UNRELENTING ATTACK! BIG SIS JESSICA SAYS SO!

EVEN KNOWING THAT THE MISTRESS AND RAKU ICHIJO AREN'T DATING...

I CAN'T JUST FLIP A SWITCH AND CHANGE EVERYTHING.

I STILL DON'T BELIEVE IT.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE CONVINCED ME TO DO THIS.

THAT PAULA...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M ACTUALLY THINKING ABOUT THIS!!!

AM

IF ANYTHING HAPPENED, IT WOULD MAKE TROUBLE FOR THE MISTRESS.

BESIDES, THEY STILL HAVE TO PRETEND TO BE A COUPLE FOR ANOTHER YEAR.

FRET FRET

IF I'M GOING TO GO FOR HIM, I SHOULD WAIT UNTIL AFTER WE GRADUATE...

UM...

WAIT... NO HE'S NOT...

HE'S DATING THE MISTRESS...

NGHH...

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF HAVING A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM!

HEY, TSUGUMI ...

SORRY... WHAT IS IT, RAKU ICHIJO?

NGH...

You look ready to kill me...

ARE YOU OKAY?

UM... WHAT'S GOING ON?

WHAT ?!

EEK!!

...ARE THE CLASSROOM AIDES TODAY.

YOU AND I...

OH.

CLASSROOM DUTY WITH JUST THE TWO OF US...!!

ARGH...WHY TODAY OF ALL DAYS?

...

IN FACT...

SKWEEZ

PLUS SHE MADE ME WEAR THIS STUPID STUFF...

THAT STUFF SHE SAID MADE ME ALL SELF-CONSCIOUS!

GAH! THIS IS ALL PAULA'S FAULT!

?

SHAKA

SHAKA

SHAKA

WHAT'S WITH THIS UNIFORM, ANYWAY?! THE SKIRT IS WAY TOO SHORT!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE NOBODY MINDS!

TUG

BEING SEEN LIKE THIS BY HIM...

...IS TOTALLY MORTIFYING !!

I SHOULDN'T SWEAT IT. IT'S NO BIG DEAL...

UGH... STOP THINKING ABOUT IT...

GASP !!

WHAT'S WRONG ?

...

HUH?

HUUUUUUH?!

?!

SHOOOF

SHF...

I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.

OH, NOTHING. GO ON AHEAD, WOULDJA?

?

OH... OKAY...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE A BIG SACRIFICE TO ME!

WHAT?!

MAKING SMALL SACRIFICES FOR GREATER SECURITY.

NOTHING. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

W-W-WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

PAT PAT

YOU'RE ALL DUSTY NOW...

OH, GEEZ!

YOU'RE ACTING KINDA WEIRD.

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU TODAY?

WORMP

KAPOW!!EEE

WHAT'S MY PROBLEM?!

FLUSH

HUH?

uh-oh...

ALL HE DID WAS TOUCH ME AND MY PULSE WENT CRAZY.

JUST BEING AROUND HIM MAKES MY CHEST ACHE...

TSUGUMI...

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IN LOVE...

GASP

HASN'T THIS HAPPENED BEFORE?

You seem kinda off.

I TOLD YOU, I'M FINE!

HEY, TSUGUMI... MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST CALL IT A DAY?

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME!

?!

NO!! NO I'M NOT!!

CLATTER

KRASH!!

OH, RIGHT. SHE'S STILL UNDECIDED...

...TO TALK ABOUT HER FUTURE PLANS.

SHE'S MEETING WITH THE TEACHER...

BY THE WAY... WHERE'S THE MISTRESS?

SHUT UP.

I TOLD YOU, I'M HELPING.

I CAN GO BUY IT ON MY OWN.

OH NO!

WE'RE OUT OF MARGARITA'S PET FOOD!

WOULD I BE GLAD?

...SOMETHING ROMANTIC HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF US?

WHAT IF...

WHAT DO I WANT, ANYWAY?

SIGH...

NAH, I JUST GOT HERE!

MORNING, BEAUTIFUL!

WERE YOU WAITING LONG?

GOOD MORNING, SWEETIE!

AH HA HA HA HA HA...

OH, YOU...

TEE HEE! I COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU! ♡

HA HA! YOU GOT ME! SO...YOU CAME EARLY TOO?

LIAR! I SAW YOU WAITING AROUND! ♡

PLUNK

HEY, TSUGUMI ...!

YEAH ?

OH!

MAYBE SHE ATE SOME-THING BAD...

HA HA HA ...

AH HA HA HA ...

HEH HEH HEH ...

HEH HEH HEH ...

TRMBL

TRMBL

I WANT TO DISAPPEAR.

I WANT TO DISINTEGRATE...

I feel pathetic...

I'M GETTING THE CRAZIEST DÉJÀ VU...

GEE...

I WAS NEVER LIKE THIS BEFORE WE MET...

UGH... WHEN DID I GET SO PATHETIC?

SHUT UP AND WALK!

WHAT ARE YOU, CURSED TO ALWAYS HURT YOURSELF WHEN YOU DRESS LIKE A GIRL?

HEY, TSUGUMI ...

ABOUT YESTERDAY ...

I'M REALLY SORRY...

...WE DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER.

CHITOGE'S BEEN WORRIED ABOUT IT TOO.

WE KEPT IT FROM YOU FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS.

ARE YOU KINDA UPSET?

I DON'T BLAME EITHER OF YOU IN THE SLIGHTEST.

SURE, I WAS SURPRISED, BUT I UNDERSTAND WHY IT WAS NECESSARY.

I TOLD YOU, IT'S OKAY.

OF COURSE, I HAD TO BE CAREFUL SOMETIMES...

...BUT WE WOULD'VE BEEN LOST WITHOUT YOU TIME AND TIME AGAIN!

SINCE CLEARLY CHITOGE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU...

I'M AFRAID I'VE BEEN QUITE A NUISANCE.

IN FACT, I FEEL I SHOULD APOLOGIZE.

!

NOT AT ALL!

I'M TOTALLY GRATEFUL TO YOU!

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN A NUISANCE!

...SO SINCERE...

...ALWAYS...

YOU'RE...

SKWEEZ

?

YOU'RE STILL YOU.

IT WAS A SHOCK TO FIND OUT IT WAS ALL AN ACT.

BUT...

WELL, IT'S ABOUT A FRIEND OF MINE...

SHE'S NEVER BEEN IN LOVE...

WHAT?!

CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

HEY, RAKU ICHIJO...

HUH?

SURE, WHAT?

I DON'T MIND...

It's just that...

YOU'VE ASKED FOR MY ADVICE BEFORE. DO YOU MIND?

WHAT'S WRONG?

IT'S A LOVE QUESTION?

YOU SURE I'M THE RIGHT PERSON?

HOW CAN SHE FIGURE OUT IF IT IS OR NOT?

BUT... SHE DOESN'T KNOW IF IT'S REALLY *LOVE.*

WELL, LATELY...

SHE FINDS HERSELF NOTICING THIS ONE GUY A LOT.

SOMETIMES OTHER PEOPLE SAY YOU'RE IN LOVE, BUT YOU AREN'T SURE YOURSELF.

ESPECIALLY IF SHE'S NEVER BEEN IN LOVE BEFORE, I CAN SEE HOW IT WOULD BE MORE CONFUSING.

...

WELL...

THAT'S A TOUGH ONE.

WELL ...

I'M HALF USING MY IMAGINATION, OKAY?

Do you speak from experience?

WELL!

YOU SEEM TO KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!

SHE FINDS HERSELF LOOKING OVER AT HIM.

A LOT.

SO, IN WHAT SENSE DOES SHE NOTICE THIS GUY?

HUH?

WELL...

...SHE CAN'T HELP WATCHING HIM.

WHEN THEY'RE AROUND EACH OTHER...

...OR SAD...

SOME-TIMES SHE FEELS FRUS-TRATED ...

AND WHEN SHE THINKS ABOUT HIM...

WHEN SHE TALKS WITH HIM...

...HER HEART RACES, AND SHE GETS ALL WEIRD...

...AND IT MAKES HER FEEL CRAZY...

AND FEELS DEPRESSED ...

AND ACHES...

SHE THINKS ABOUT HIM A LOT.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE LOVE TO ME!

WELL...

IF YOU ASK TEN PEOPLE, I BET THEY'LL ALL TELL YOU THE SAME THING...

I DON'T KNOW YOUR FRIEND, BUT WHAT YOU'RE DESCRIBING SOUNDS LIKE LOVE.

SO...

YOU THINK SO...?

...

THIS...

...IS LOVE...

Chapter 206: One Day

IF YOU ASK TEN PEOPLE, I BET THEY'LL ALL TELL YOU THE SAME THING...

THAT SOUNDS LIKE LOVE TO ME!

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT YOUR FRIEND, BUT I THINK IT'S LOVE.

DON'T YOU THINK SO?

YEAH...

I THINK SO TOO.

RIGHT?

EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT BE HARD FOR HER TO ACCEPT RIGHT AWAY.

From what you're saying...

ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR FRIEND.

NEVER.

YEAH...

SHE'S REALLY NEVER EXPERIENCED THIS BEFORE?

STRANGE...

FOR SUCH A LONG TIME, I COULDN'T ACCEPT MY FEELINGS...

...BUT NOW I REALLY FEEL AT PEACE.

...I WAS IN LOVE...

ALL THIS TIME...

...WITH THIS GUY...

HEY, YOU OKAY?

YOUR FACE LOOKS FLUSHED...

WHAT ?!

HM?

HEY, YOU TWO!

HUH?

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, TSUGUMI?

SHUT UP! YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS! LOOK AHEAD AND WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

IT'LL BE DARK SOON IF WE DON'T HURRY!

SHEESH... YOU DON'T HAFTA GET MAD...

OH!

THERE YOU ARE! FINALLY!

THAT'S WHY HE'S CARRYING YOU?

REALLY? THAT'S UNUSUAL.

MISTRESS! I-IT WAS A CARELESS ACCIDENT...

HEY, CHITOGE! DID YOU FINISH YOUR MEETING?

THE TEACHER SAID WE SHOULD HURRY HOME.

IT'S SUPPOSED TO RAIN SOON.

FOR REAL? I'LL HURRY UP AND GET MY STUFF...

OF COURSE NOT!!

I HOPE YOU DIDN'T TRY TO COP A FEEL OR ANYTHING!

I KNOW HOW I FEEL...BUT NOW WHAT?

BUT...

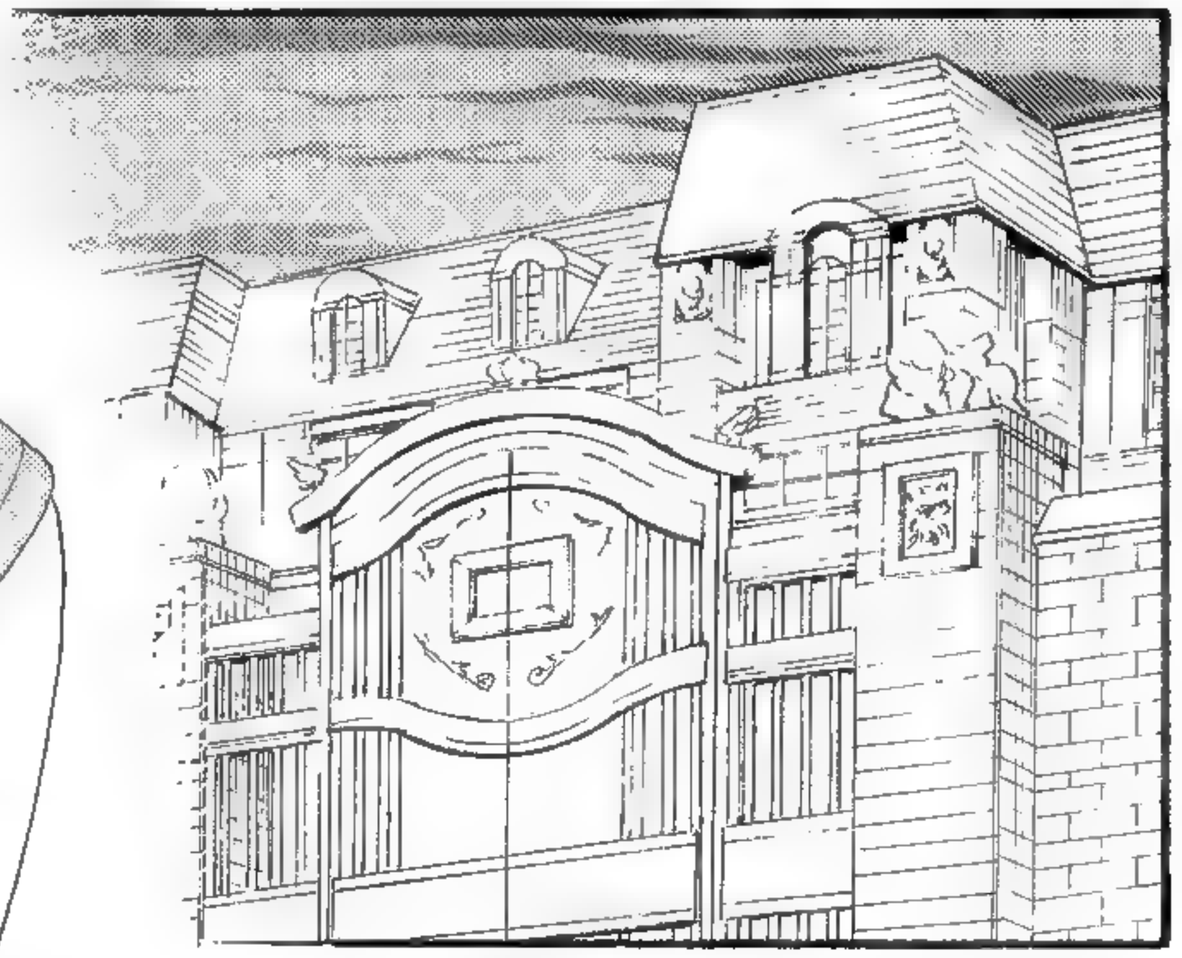
AND HOW WOULD THE MISTRESS REACT...

...IF I TOLD HER I LIKE RAKU ICHIJO?

!

IF I TELL HIM HOW I FEEL NOW, IT'LL ONLY COMPLICATE THINGS.

THEY HAVE TO CONTINUE PRETENDING THEY'RE DATING.



KSS HHH H

PLIP

PLIP

TOK TOK

MIS-TRESS?

MAY I HAVE A WORD?

KSSSHHHH

RRMMBBB

IS SOMETHING WRONG, TSUGUMI?

...?

I CAN'T SEEM TO FALL ASLEEP WITH ALL THE THUNDER...

KCHAK

YOU WANNA SLEEP HERE WITH ME TONIGHT?

OH, HEY, TSUGUMI! PERFECT TIMING!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER IF YOU DON'T WANT TO...

I JUST WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.

EXCUSE ME, MISTRESS.

?

...HAVE SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR RAKU ICHIJO?

DO YOU REALLY NOT...

WHA...

...

WE HAVE TO PRETEND WE'RE DATING, THAT'S ALL!

I TOLD YOU YESTER-DAY!

O-O-OF COURSE NOT!!

OTHERWISE, I'D NEVER DREAM OF...

I'M SORRY.

I LIED.

AT FIRST, I REALLY DIDN'T.

I CAN'T SAY I DON'T HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM.

I TOTALLY HATED HIS GUTS.

AND NOW...

...AS I GOT TO KNOW HIM BETTER, I STARTED TO NOTICE HIM MORE.

...BIT BY BIT...

BUT SLOWLY...

I DON'T KNOW HOW RAKU ICHIJO FEELS TOWARD YOU...

...BUT I'M RELIEVED TO KNOW THAT HAPPINESS ON YOUR FACE WAS REAL.

I'M NOT...

...SURPRISED.

I HOPE IT WORKS OUT FOR YOU.

I HOPE RAKU ICHIJO RETURNS YOUR FEELINGS...

I LOVE SEEING YOU LIKE THAT.

TSUGUMI!

OH, AND I'LL BRING SOME TEA TOO.

...AND I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.

I'LL JUST GO GRAB MY THINGS NOW...

ARE YOU ANGRY?

I'M SORRY FOR LYING TO YOU.

KCHAM

GRIN

KSSSHHHH

I'M WAITING FOR HER.

YEAH...SHE'S MEETING WITH THE TEACHER AGAIN.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE MISTRESS?

RAKU ICHIJO?

Oh, okay. I'll wait too then.

KSSSSSSHHHH

CLATTER

HUH?

YEAH...

...

SURE IS POURING.

OH, THAT.

THE FRIEND I ASKED YOU ABOUT...

...SAYS THANK YOU.

ABOUT OUR CONVERSATION YESTERDAY...

BY THE WAY, RAKU ICHIJO...

YEAH?

OKAY...

I'LL LET HER KNOW.

...

I HOPE IT GOES WELL!

I'LL BE ROOTING FOR HER!

WELL, ANYWAY, I'M GLAD WE HELPED HER FIGURE IT OUT.

Glad I could help!

TAK

HUH?

WHAT IS IT...?

BY THE WAY...

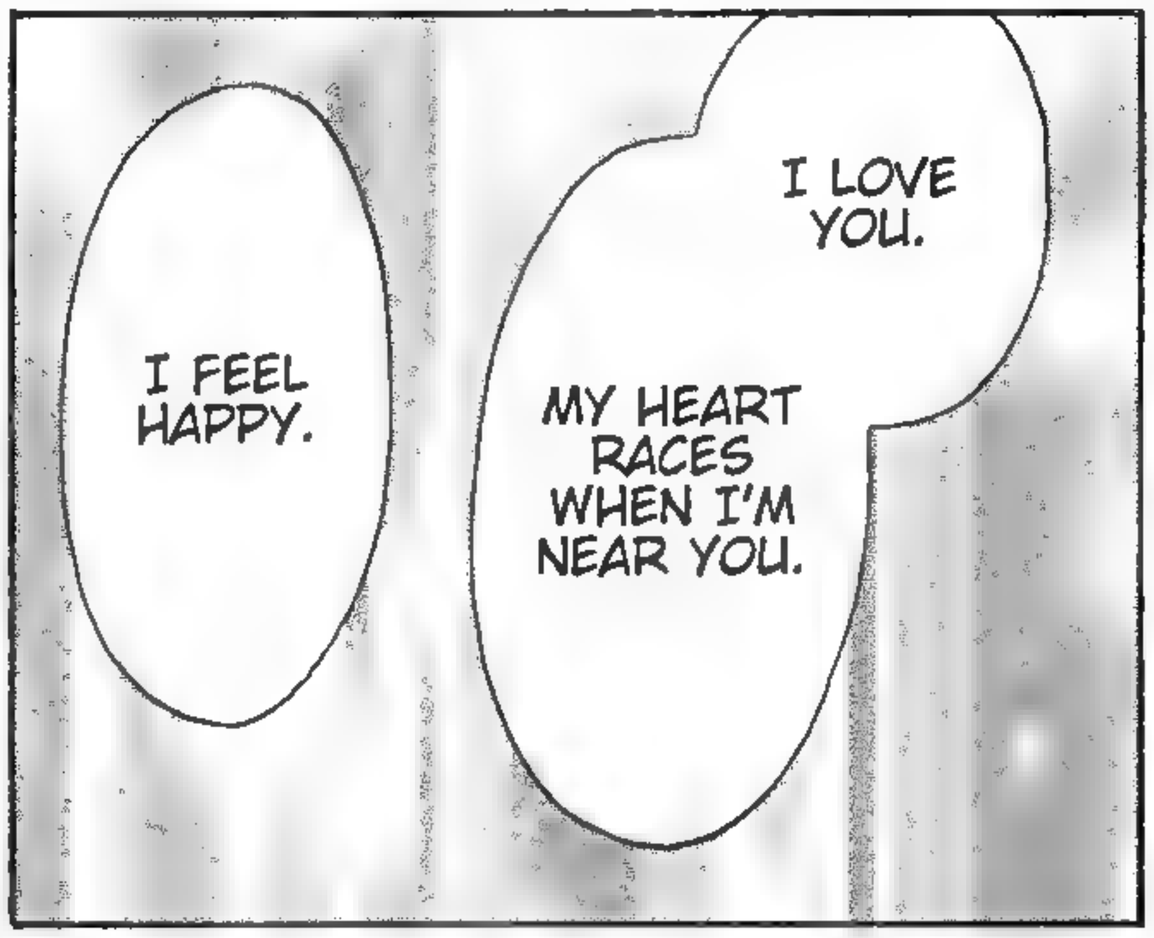
SHE WANTED ME TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

RAKU ICHIJO.

I LOVE YOU...

BUT...
NOW I GET IT.
I can't hear!
Huh ?
What's up?!
FOR A LONG TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS FEELING.

I ALSO REALIZE...
...THAT I COULD NEVER BE HAPPY IF THE MISTRESS WASN'T.


I FEEL HAPPY.
I LOVE YOU.
MY HEART RACES WHEN I'M NEAR YOU.

BUT...

I'M SURE LOTS OF GUYS WILL FALL FOR YOU.

BUT...

...YOU'RE SO DEDICATED IN THE WAY YOU SERVE OTHERS.

IF SHE'S HAPPY, I'LL BE HAPPY TOO.

MY MISSION IS TO PROTECT HER HAPPINESS.

SO...

SKWEEZ

...I'LL LET MYSELF FALL IN LOVE.

...WHEN THAT HAPPENS...

SO...

...IF I MEET A GUY LIKE YOU ONE DAY...

FOR TEACHING ME ABOUT LOVE.

THANK YOU, RAKU ICHIJO.

NOW, WE'D BETTER GET OUR STUFF TOGETHER. THE MISTRESS SHOULD BE DONE SOON.

AND LOOK...

YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS.

WAIT A SEC... ARE YOU CRYING?!

What's wrong?

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME?

SHEESH! WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

WHO KNOWS?

THE RAIN STOPPED...

HOW COME HE'S SO DRESSED UP?

HUH? MAIKO?

Chapter 207: University

GOWN?

WHY WOULD I BE WEARING A GOWN...

WELL, THE BIG DAY'S FINALLY HERE. YOU LOOK STUNNING IN THAT GOWN.

HUH? MAKEUP?

HEY, RURI. ALL DONE WITH YOUR MAKEUP?

DON'T BE SILLY!

WHY, TODAY'S THE DAY...!

JUST A MINUTE... I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON...

...ARE GETTING MARRIED!

YOU AND I...

BEE-BEE-BEEP

BEE-BEE-BEEP

WHA...

BEE-
BEE-
BEEP

BEE-
BEE-
BEEP

BEE-
BEE-
BEEP

BEE-
BEE-
BEEP

TIIIING
TOOOOONG

DIIIIING
DOOOOONG

OH... NOTHING...

...

W-WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?

...

I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT.

OH? WHAT DID YOU DREAM?

FEELING PRETTY APOCALYPTIC, ACTUALLY.

I JUST HAD THE WORST NIGHTMARE OF THE CENTURY, THAT'S ALL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE I DREAMT THAT...

Good morn-ing, Ichijo!

Oh, good morning, Ono-dera!

HIM, OF ALL PEOPLE!

CLATTER

WHY WOULD I DREAM SUCH A THING...?

WHY?

KA-

LIN

AM

WELL, WELL!

HELLO THERE, RURI!

GLRFF!

GOOD M...

RURI ?!

TOMP

AAAAA

SHU?!

FWAMBAMKRASHKRUNCHPOWIAAP

AIIIEEEEEEE

How 'bout fries and a drink with that?

YOU MORON! YOU CAN ASK FOR SOMETHING BIGGER AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

??

HFF HFF

MY LAST REQUEST... IF YOU COULD BE SO KIND AS TO PLACE A SPECIAL BONYARI LIMITED EDITION SUPER-BURGER ON MY GRAVE...

OOF... RAKU...

BA-DMP

YEAH, BUT...

HE DIDN'T EVEN DO ANYTHING THIS TIME!

YOU KNOW I HAVE TO RAIN DOWN PUNISHMENT ON MAIKO ON A FREQUENT BASIS.

NO.

DID SOMETHING HAPPEN...

...WITH YOU AND MAIKO?

IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE BEHAVES LIKE A PIG ALL THE TIME.

NO WAY.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE EXTRA HARD ON HIM...

AND IT'S BEEN HAPPENING A LOT LATELY...

WE'RE THIRD-YEAR STUDENTS ALREADY!

NEVER MIND THAT. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

ULP!

LET'S NOT RESORT TO VIOLENCE NOW... CALM... CALM...

EEK!

DON'T YOU REALIZE WHAT A SCUMBOOGER HE IS?

YOU'RE TAKING HIS SIDE, KOSAKI?

WHAT ...

You're scary today, Ruri!

...I'M PLANNING TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS.

BLUSH

NOTE BOOK

WELL...

I'VE ALREADY PICKED THE DAY...

THERE'RE ENTRANCE EXAMS FOR COLLEGE... TIME'S RUNNING OUT...

YOU PLAN TO KEEP DRAGGING YOUR FEET UNTIL WE GRADUATE?

I...

NOTE BOOK

...

I'LL TELL YOU AFTER I DO IT!

I...I CAN'T TELL YOU THAT!!

First I've heard of it...

WHEN?

REALLY?

BOOM!

I THINK YOU AND MAIKO WOULD MAKE A GOOD COUPLE...

FROM WHERE I STAND...

WELL, I WON'T BE HOLDING MY BREATH...

OH?

HUH?

WHAT ABOUT *YOUR* LOVE LIFE, RURI?

YEESH!

ME AND MAIKO?! PUH-LEASE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH EVERY-ONE?!

THAT'S RIGHT, KOSAKI.

YOU NEED TO WATCH WHAT YOU SAY IF YOU WANT TO SUCCEED IN THIS WORLD.

YOU AND MAIKO WOULD NOT MAKE A GOOD COUPLE AT ALL.

I WAS IMAGINING THINGS.

I TAKE IT BACK.

IF I WERE GOING TO DATE SOME-ONE...

...THERE'RE PLENTY OF BETTER GUYS OUT THERE THAN HIM...

IF YOU WANT TO ENTER KICHIRI UNIVERSITY...

...THEN YOU SHOULD GET THIS STUDY GUIDE.

LOOM

JF English

!!

A COMPLETE GUIDE TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON KICHIRI UNIVERSITY'S ENTRANCE EXAM!

PLUS 1,300 VOCAB WORDS THAT'LL HAVE YOU SAILING THROUGH THE READING COMPREHENSION SECTION!

WANT A COPY?

YOU'RE HERE TO BUY STUDY MATERIALS, RIGHT?

YEAH, ME TOO.

WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

SHEESH!

WHY TODAY, OF ALL DAYS?

I'M HERE SHOPPING FOR A BUDDY TOO!

WHAT A COINKY-DINK!

...

IT'S A BIT LATE FOR ANYONE WHO'S JUST STARTING NOW.

I'M HERE TO FIND STUFF FOR KOSAKI.

...ARE GETTING MARRIED!

SMAK

YOU AND I...

RRRMMBB

MIND IF I SLUG YOU?

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM?!

EXCUSE ME, MAIKO...

WHAT'S WITH YOU TODAY, RURI?!

OH, COME ON.

JUST ONE PUNCH.

OR MAYBE TWO.

TWO ?!

WHAT'RE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT?!

GASP

OH, I GET IT...

MUST BE THAT TIME OF...

SMASH

WHAT ?!

WHAT DID I SAY?! ALL I DID WAS WONDER IF IT WAS THAT TIME...

I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO OFFEND YOU!!

YOU WANT ANOTHER?

WE'D MAKE A GOOD COUPLE?

YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING!

OF COURSE I KNOW!

I'M APPLYING TO THE SAME SCHOOL!

BY THE WAY...HOW DID YOU KNOW WHAT SCHOOL I'M APPLYING TO?

I didn't tell you.

MUST BE FATE, HUH?

SURE HOPE WE BOTH GET ACCEPTED!

WHAAAT?!

YIKES!! WAIT, RURI!

I'M ALMOST ALL OUT OF HIT POINTS!!

WOBBLE

Uh-oh...

LET'S WALK TOGETH-ER!

WE BOTH LIVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION, RIGHT?

HEY. WHY'RE YOU FOLLOWING ME?

GET LOST.

THIS CAN'T BE...

NO...

THAT'S AWESOME. THAT SCHOOL'S HARD TO GET INTO.

YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN ACCEPTED, RIGHT?

I NEVER IMAGINED WE'D END UP AT THE SAME UNIVERSITY...

WHAT A NIGHTMARE.

I'VE REALLY BEEN ENJOYING MY JOB AS A TUTOR.

I'VE BEEN PREPARING TOO, ACTUALLY.

A TUTOR?!

I DON'T SPEND ALL OF MY TIME GOOFING OFF LIKE SOME PEOPLE.

WELL, UNLIKE YOU, I'VE BEEN PREPARING FOR A LONG TIME.

Constantly scheming and making trouble...

WELL, WELL. I GUESS YOU SEE ME AS COMPETITION.

I'm scared now!

YOU'RE MORE THAN HALF RIGHT, THERE. ♡

DROP DEAD, CREEPA-ZOID.

HAH! I BET YOU'RE JUST STOKED TO BE ALONE WITH YOUNGER GIRLS.

I'M PRETTY POPULAR WITH THEM.

IT'S COOL TO SEE THE KIDS I'M TEACHING REALLY MAKE PROGRESS.

IT'S SURPRISINGLY FUN.

WELL, I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN!

OH?

I DEFINITELY PLAN TO PASS YOU BY THE TIME WE GRADUATE.

JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE BETTER GRADES THAN ME—I WOULDN'T GET COMPLACENT IF I WERE YOU.

I CAN'T SEE YOU HAVING THE PATIENCE AND SENSITIVITY TO BE A GOOD TEACHER.

...YOU PROBABLY WON'T SPAR WITH ME LIKE THIS ANYMORE!

IF I LET YOU GET AHEAD OF ME IN SCHOOL...

IN THAT CASE...

I'LL HAVE TO PUT UP A GOOD FIGHT!

JUST KIDDING! ♡

BLRFF...

I'M NOT ABOUT TO CHANGE A MAJOR LIFE DECISION THAT EASILY...

FOR BOTH OUR SAKES.

PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO APPLY TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL AFTER ALL.

EDUCA-TION.

DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE IN A DIFFERENT PROGRAM.

BESIDES, YOU'RE GOING FOR THE FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEGREE, RIGHT?

YEAH? WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO STUDY?

...

...A TEACHER.

I WANT TO BE...

...IF I'LL BE GOOD AT IT.

OF COURSE, I DON'T KNOW...

I LIKE MS. KYOKO.

DO YOU...

...

...ON MS. KYOKO?

...STILL HAVE A CRUSH...

WHAT?!

WHY DID I ASK THAT?!

GASP

...I'M THE SLIGHTEST BIT INTERESTED...

IT'S NOT AS IF...

BA

M

WELL...

...

(Um...)

(Do you know where my mommy and daddy are?)

UH...

...A LOST...

...CHILD?!

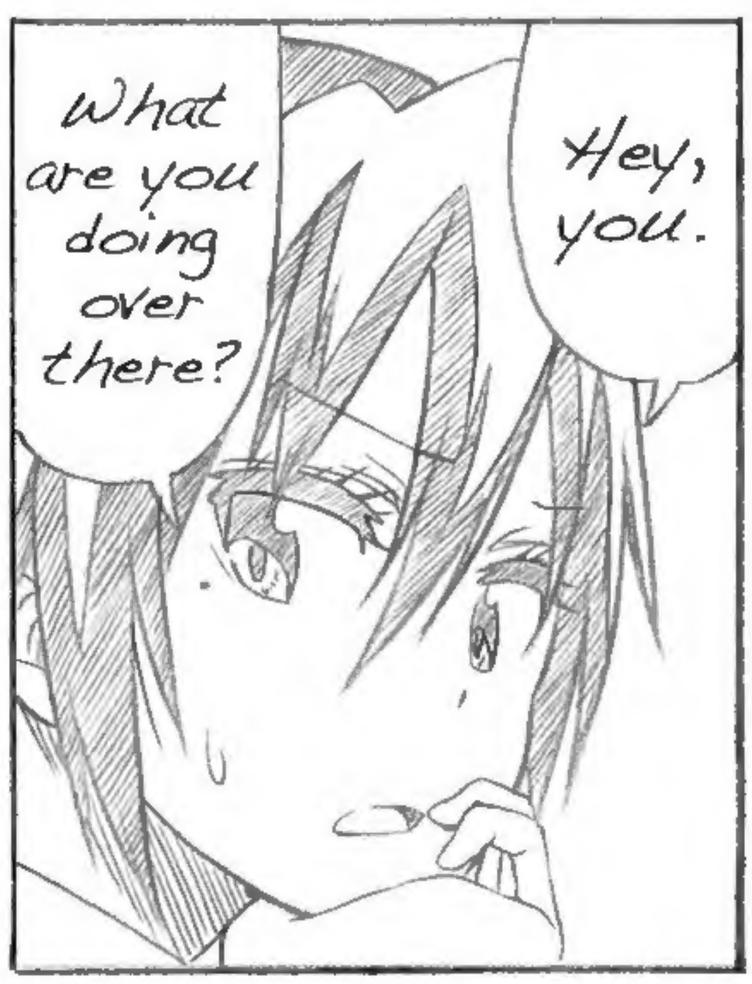
I THINK SO...

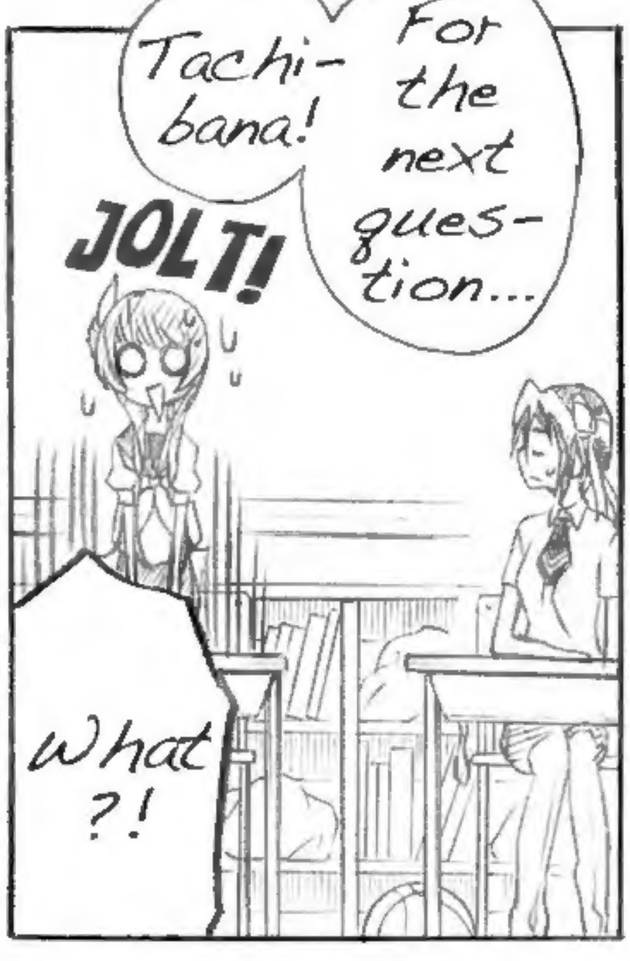
IS...

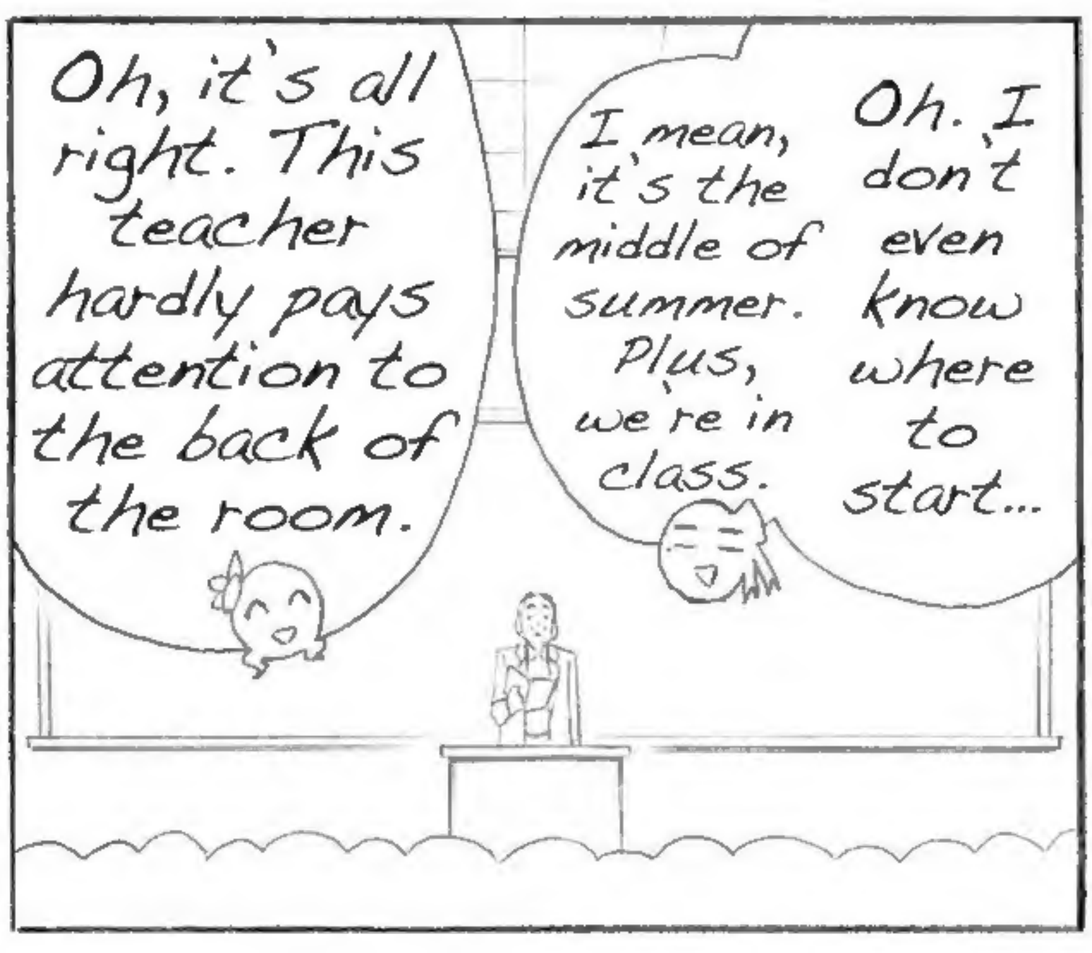
IS THIS...

Volume 23--One Day/END

BONUS COMIC: NEIGHBORS






Oh, it's all right. This teacher hardly pays attention to the back of the room.
I mean, it's the middle of summer. Plus, we're in class.
Oh. I don't even know where to start...

DRAG DRAG

What's with the bag now?

Thanks for helping me out back there.

Sheesh. You really should pay better attention...

So?

...

HOIST

Much obliged ...

We're gonna be late for class!

What were you thinking, bringing more than you can carry?

I doubt that's what he had in mind...

So I rounded up 5,000 of the most popular romance novels...

Well, the other day Raku Dearest mentioned wanting to read more...

I'm exhausted from P.E! I can't move another step!

Oh, please! Get moving!

You forgot this...

Later

I can't reach!

This is for you!

Hey, Tsu-gumi!

Thank you.

Okay, well, thanks.

I heard you're a good cook.

They aren't poisoned or anything, are they?

I baked cookies for Raku Dearest, and I had some extra...

Oh my! What a thing to say!

Yikes!

Hey!

Gah! Marika, you pest! You never quit!

Eeeek! Good morning, Raku Dearest!! You're looking as handsome as ever today!

Oh!

END